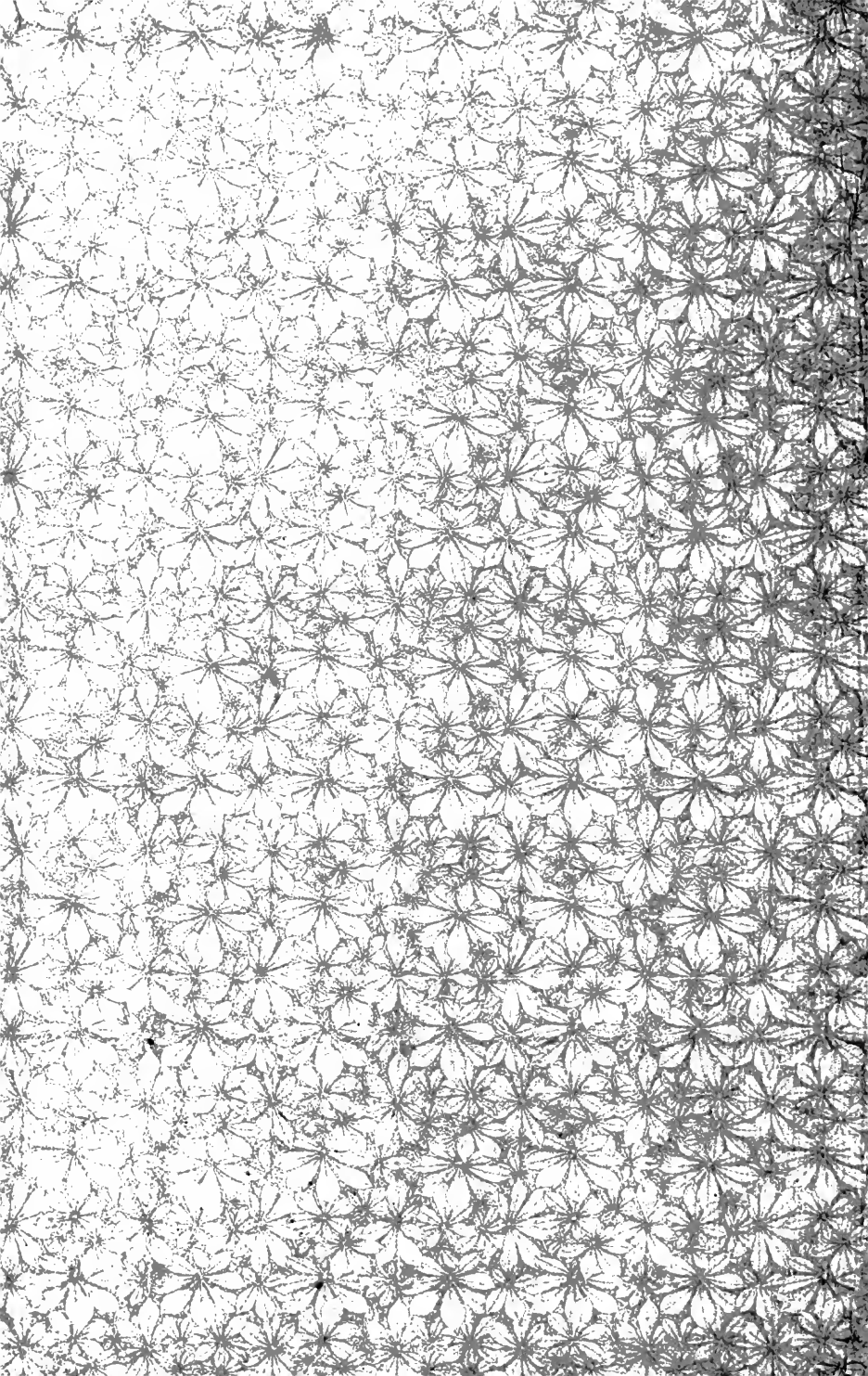
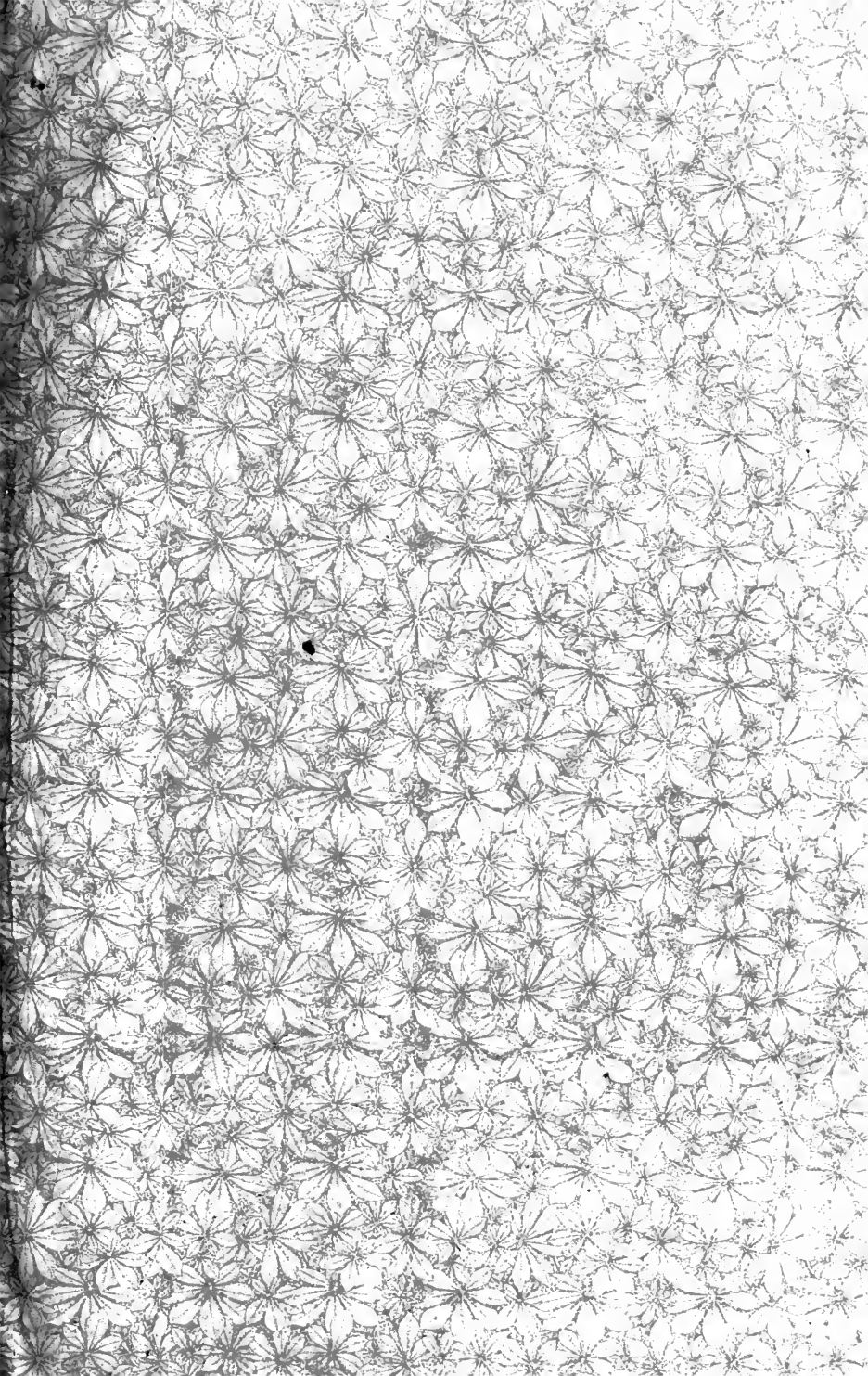


49th Annual

Co-operative
Congress.

Swansea, 1917.





*The Forty-ninth Annual
Co-operative Congress,
1917.*

The _____
Co-operative Union Limited



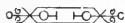
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Co-operative Congress



1917

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(President of Congress).

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List of Delegates and Representatives Present at the Congress.

(1) Representatives from other Bodies, &c.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.—Mr. H. J. May.

SURVEY COMMITTEE.—Mr. A. Mann;

TRADES UNION CONGRESS.—Mr. W. Straker.

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.—Mr. J. C. Williams.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.—Mr. J. J. Dent.

(2) Representatives from other Countries.

FRANCE.—Mon. A. J. Cleuet.

RUSSIA.—Messrs. J. Bubnoff, E. Yarkoff, and S. Hermer.

(3) Members of the Central Board, other than those delegated by Societies and District Associations.

IRISH EXECUTIVE.—Messrs. G. McGuffin (Belfast) and R. Fleming (Secretary).

MIDLAND SECTION.—Messrs. G. Bastard (Leicester), J. Butcher (Rugby), S. Butler (Long Eaton), W. J. Douse (Nottingham), G. Harris (Lincoln), A. H. Jones (Shrewsbury), J. Langley (Kettering), W. Millerchip (Walsall), J. Millington (Birmingham), C. A. W. Saxton (Worcester), and E. L. Griffiths (Hon. Member).

NORTHERN SECTION.—Messrs. G. Bedford (Middlesbrough), J. Davison (Bedlington), S. Galbraith, M.P. (Durham), J. Murdoch (Workington), W. R. Rae (Sunderland), and A. Stoddart (Secretary).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. E. Booth (Wooldale), W. Dewhurst (Colne), S. Fairbrother (Bolton), S. R. Foster (Bingley), G. Goodenough (Castleford), J. Greenwood (Hebden Bridge), W. Gregory (Preston), J. W. Hargreaves (Haslingden), S. C. Hughes (Brymbo), J. Johnston (Manchester), G. Major (Rotherham), J. Morrell (Bradford), J. Pollitt (Swinton), T. Redfearn (Heckmondwike), W. Swindlehurst (Barrow-in-Furness), J. Thompson (Ashton-under-Lyne), T. Way (Wakefield), B. Woolfenden (Rochdale), and J. Bradshaw (Secretary).

SCOTTISH SECTION.—Messrs. J. Deans (Kilmarnock), P. Loney (Stirling), J. Patterson (Burntisland), A. Purdie (Edinburgh), and G. Wilson (Bannockburn).

SOUTHERN SECTION.—Mrs. M. A. Gasson (London), Messrs. W. H. Brown (London), W. T. Charter (Cambridge), M. H. Clear (Sheerness), S. Foulger (Ipswich), A. Hainsworth (Woolwich), E. King (Oxford), R. Rowsell (Reading), W. J. Salmon (Colchester), and B. Williams (Secretary).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. R. Andrew (Newton Abbot), J. T. Davis (Plymouth), J. Marks (Plymouth), R. Pearce (Delabole), Rev. G. A. Ramsay (Radstock), and W. H. Watkins (Plymouth).

WESTERN SECTION.—Messrs. W. H. Bryant (Blaenavon), R. R. Chappell (Gloucester), J. P. Davies (Nantyglo), D. Evans (Blackwood), D. Williams (Swansea), and E. R. Wood (Ton Pentre).

GENERAL SECRETARY.—Mr. A. Whitehead.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Mr. T. Horrocks.

CASHIER.—Mr. N. H. Cooper.

EDUCATION SECRETARY.—Mr. C. E. Wood.

ADVISER OF ST. DIES.—Mr. F. Hall, M.A., and also Miss E. M. Bradley.

(4) Delegates from Societies and Conference Associations.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
1 Aberdare	Davies, A.
"	Davies, E.
"	Jones, T.
"	Thomas, T.
2 Aberdeen Northern	Bisset, G.
3 Abergwni	Jones, W.
4 Abersychan and Talywain	Blackmore, W.
"	Cotton, H. D.
"	Price, J.
"	Smith, A.
5 Accrington and Church	Brownbill, G.
"	Lea, J.
"	Slater, W.
"	Yates, Mrs. G.
6 Addlestone	Gray, R. T.
7 Afan Valley	James, J.
8 Airedale Worsted Manufacturing	Lambert, J.
9 Alcester	Barber, T.
"	Morris, W. J.
"	Morris, Mrs. W. J.
"	Skinner, A. E.
10 Alltwen and Pontardawe	Harris, T.
"	Williams, T. R.
11 Ammanford	Evans, D. R.
"	George, D.
12 Annfield Plain	Johnson, G. E.
"	Robinson, H. D.
13 Armadale	Nimmo, W.
14 Ashford	Harrod, J. J.
15 Ashington Industrial	Gillians, J. M.
"	Henderson, C. G.
16 Aspatria Industrial	Bland, J.
"	Temple, J.
17 Avonbank	Cullen, W.
"	Reid, A. M.
18 Barkisland	Whiteley, Mrs. F.
19 Barnsley	Copley, T.
"	Jones, S.
"	Naylor, A.
"	Wroe, A. J.
"	Witham, C. E.
20 Barrhead	Carswell, T.
"	Murray, R.
"	Reid, W.
21 Barrow-in-Furness	Balmanno, Mrs. M. A.
"	Barron, Mrs. M. F.
"	Eddevane, Mrs. I.
"	Lyon, W.
"	McIntee, A.
"	Walker, A.
22 Barry and District	Dobson, E. G.
"	Murphy, W.
23 Barwell	Geary, G.
"	Hill, W. W.
24 Batley	Childe, W. H.
"	Parr, T. S.
"	Thurman, W.
"	Wilman, J. T.
25 Bedford	Jones, D. A.
26 Belfast	Christie, F. W.
"	Moore, Mrs. A.
27 Bellshill and Mossend	Davidson, A.
28 Bingley	Brearily, A.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
29 Birkenhead	Oddy, J.
"	Russell, C. H.
"	Score, W. H.
"	Skyunner, Mrs. E.
30 Birkenshaw	Weare, B.
"	Firth, W.
31 Birmingham Industrial	Lightfoot, J. W.
"	Cornforth, F.
"	Eastbury, J.
"	Pearce, Mrs. C.
"	Siddens, F.
"	Sherry, W. E.
"	Spires, F.
32 " Printers	Bruff, F. H.
33 Birstall	Kellett, J. W.
"	Sykes, F.
34 Birtley and District	Charles, W. R.
"	Davis, A.
"	Knox, F.
"	Melvin, T.
35 Bishop Auckland	Blenkin, T.
"	Readshaw, T.
"	Willey, R.
36 Blackburn—Daisyfield	Starr, L.
37 " Industrial	Sharples, J.
38 Blackley	Hughes, C.
"	Stafford, W. B.
"	Towers, G. A.
39 Blackpool	Ford, E.
"	Foulds, J.
"	Williams, F. A.
40 " Printers	Maddison, F.
41 Blaenavon	Davies, I.
"	Hatchard, W.
"	Spencer, W.
42 Blaendulais	Davies, J. W.
43 Blaina	Bennett, G.
"	Davies, D.
"	Davies, J.
"	Jones, J.
"	Lloyd, J. D.
"	Warfield, H.
44 Blantyre	Heggison, T.
"	Wright, A.
45 Blaydon-on-Tyne	McGlynn, W.
"	Morgan, N.
46 Boldon Industrial	Lewins, J.
47 Bolton	Bentley, W.
"	Edmonson, H.
"	Forber, W.
"	Hughes, D.
"	Kay, W.
"	Tuck, W.
48 Boston	Brown, J.
"	Newstead, H.
49 Bradford (City of)	Bland, H.
"	Denman, F.
"	Love, A.
"	Wood, J. T.
50 Brecon and District	Davies, Rev. J.
51 Brentwood and District	Edwards, T. W.
52 Bridgwater	Westbury, H.
53 Brighouse	Ibbetson, C. H.
"	Kellett, J.
"	Shaw, F.
54 Brighton Equitable	Elmes, Mrs. A. M.
"	Gibbins, F. A.
"	Hussey, T.
"	Wehber, G.
"	Webber, Mrs. G.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
54 Brighton Equitable	Wilkinson, W. A.
55 Brightside and Carbrook	Ager, Mrs. S. E.
" "	Gill, J.
" "	M. Ilor, F. H.
" "	Senior, H.
" "	Skinner, S. J.
" "	Thraves, F.
56 Bristol	Found, Mrs. M.
" "	Fidkin, Mr. J. C.
" "	Fidkin, Mrs. J. C.
" "	Skidmore, Mrs. A.
" "	Watts, C. J.
" "	Watts, Mrs. C. J.
57 " Printers	Mundy, E. W.
58 Briton Ferry	Hewlett, A. D.
59 Bryn Colliery	Jones, J. H.
60 Bulwell	Jennison, J. T.
61 Burnbank	Benson, R.
" "	Thomson, J.
62 Burnley	Blakeborough, S.
" "	Pickup, A.
" "	Pollard, F.
" "	Nowell, T.
" "	Spencer, W.
" "	Thornton, R.
63 " Self Help	Wood, T.
64 Burntisland	Graham, W.
65 Burry Port	Richards, W. T.
66 Burslem	Brooks, G. W.
" "	Hayward, F.
" "	Travers, J. M.
" "	Travers, Miss D.
67 Bury	Rigby, T. R.
68 Busby	Todd, Mrs. A.
69 Caeran and Maesteg	Evans, D.
70 Cainscross and Ebley	May, D.
71 Cambridge	Warner, E. T.
" "	Collins, C. G.
72 Cardiff	Wisher, R. E.
" "	John, Mrs. E.
" "	Marsh, A.
" "	Stedman, W. L.
73 Carleton	Jones, D.
74 Carlisle	Paxton, T. E.
" "	Short, J.
75 Carmarthen Industrial	Evans, M. T.
76 Chepstow	Kirton, G.
77 Chesham	Gomm, C.
78 Chesterfield	Greaves, J. N.
" "	Tomlinson, G. H.
79 Chester-le-Street	Bruce, J. G.
" "	Cuthbert, J. R.
80 Cinderhill	Grummitt, J. W.
" "	Parks, T.
81 Cleator Moor	Atkinson, F.
" "	Batson, W.
" "	Larkin, W.
" "	Nicholson, J.
" "	Weir, T.
82 Cleckheaton	Elliott, J.
" "	Sutcliffe, H.
83 Clown	Davenport, H.
" "	Storey, W. H.
84 Clydebank	Drury, W.
" "	McFarlane, Q.
" "	Paterson, D.
85 Coalville	Bennett, J. E.
" "	Lester, J.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
85 Coalville	Marrer, S.
86 Coathbridge	Howarth, L.
87 Colne	Bibby, T.
"	Kimberley, J.
"	Proudfoot, J.
"	Proudfoot, Mrs. J.
88 Compstal!	Timperley, S.
"	Williams, F.
89 Congleton	Charlesworth, H.
"	Hollinshead, J.
"	Lomas, F.
"	Shaw, W.
90 Consett	Hall, G.
"	Hull, R.
91 Co-operative Insurance	Gallacher, W.
"	Varley, A.
92 Co-operative Newspaper	Bayne, J.
"	Elliott, J.
"	Hewitt, A.
93 Co-operative Printing	Laws-on, J. W.
"	Bell, R.
"	Hodgson, H.
"	Robertson, J. H.
94 Co-operative Productive Federation	Halstead, R.
95 Co-operative Secretaries' Association	Briggs, G.
96 Co-operative Sundries Manufacturing	Healey, T. A.
97 Co-operative Wholesale	Adams, T.
"	Allen, T. W.
"	Arnold, T. G.
"	Brodrick, T.
"	Clayton, W.
"	Coley, P.
"	Dudley, W. E.
"	Elsey, H.
"	Graham, E. J.
"	Hemingway, W.
"	Henson, T. J.
"	Killon, T.
"	Moorhouse, T. E.
"	Woodhouse, G.
93 Coventry Perseverance	Cundliffe, E.
"	Harris, T. J.
"	Keene, Mrs. M. A.
"	Newbold, J.
"	Parker, Mrs. H.
"	Rose, W. H.
99 Cowdenbeath	King, J.
100 Cowlairs (Glasgow)	Brown, R.
"	Reilly, J.
"	Wilson, T.
101 Cramlington	Calvert, J.
"	Crow, J. W., jun.
102 Crewe	Brassington, J.
"	Derbyshire, E.
"	Farr, C.
"	Farr, Mrs. C.
"	Heath, J.
"	Littlewood D.
103 Crompton Boot Manufacturing (Desboro')	Cox, W. A.
104 Croydon	Bailey, C.
"	Bethell, F.
"	Church, E. G.
"	Turley, Mrs. A. E.
105 Cwmbach	Jones, E.
"	Lloyd, D.
"	Motley, F.
"	Richards, Miss M.
"	Thomas, E.
"	Thomas, W.
106 Cwmbrwla (Swansea)	Hathaway, W.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES
107 Cwmgorse.....	Evans, T. G.
108 Cwmilynnfell.....	Williams, T. W.
109 Cwmtillery.....	Bevan, W. J.
110 Cymmer.....	Williams, G. H.
	Evans, W.
111 Dalton-in-Furness.....	Price, J.
112 Dalziel.....	Harper, Mrs. M.
" ".....	McDonald, D.
" ".....	Reid, W. S.
" ".....	Russell, A.
113 Darlington Industrial.....	Russell, Mrs. A.
" ".....	Brennan, E. E.
" ".....	Broadley, W.
" ".....	Broadley, Mrs. W.
" ".....	Smith, T.
114 Dartford.....	Stevenson, D.
115 Daventry.....	Turnbull, W. T.
116 Denholme.....	Browning, E. T.
117 Denton.....	Whalley, H.
118 Derby.....	Jones, Mrs. T.
" ".....	Clark, T.
" ".....	Fieldhouse, W. J.
" ".....	Flint, G.
" ".....	Lockton, C.
" ".....	Wallis, F.
" ".....	Wood, S.
119 Derwent Flour Mill.....	Hall, R.
120 Dewsbury Co-operative Laundries' Association.....	Brown, J.
121 " Pioneers.....	Dawson, T.
" ".....	Dickinson, Mrs. G.
" ".....	Firth, J.
" ".....	Halstead, J.
" ".....	Howard, L.
" ".....	Oldroyd, H.
122 Doncaster Mutual.....	Burton, H.
" ".....	Judd, P.
123 Dowlais.....	Griffiths, C. J.
" ".....	Hughes, T. J.
124 Droylsden.....	Gregory, C.
" ".....	Stopford, J.
125 Dublin Industrial.....	Byrne, L. P.
126 Dudley.....	Pearson, B.
" ".....	Pearcey, A. H.
127 Dumbarton Equitable.....	Mudie, P.
128 Dundee, City of.....	Muir, J.
129 Dunfermline.....	David, T.
" ".....	Herd, J.
130 Duntocher and Hardgate.....	Paterson, A.
131 Dysart.....	Macpherson, J.
	Terris, A.
132 East Cleveland.....	Page, J.
" ".....	Unthank, G. T.
133 Ebbw Vale.....	Evans, J. M.
" ".....	Morgan, J.
" ".....	Morris, W.
134 Eccles Provident.....	Birch, R.
" ".....	Booth, T.
" ".....	Hudson, J.
135 Edinburgh—St. Cuthbert's.....	Bell, W.
" ".....	Cairns, J.
" ".....	Hall, T.
" ".....	Linton, Mrs. N.
" ".....	Lyon, A.
" ".....	Paterson, Mrs. I. C.
136 Egremont.....	Garnett, W.
" ".....	Quayle, T.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
137 Emley	Kidd, J.
138 Enfield Highway	Hood, Mrs. E. D.
139 Excelsior Boot and Shoe (Sibley)	Mercy, J. A.
140 Failsworth	Shemilt, W. H.
"	Tiffany, J. W.
141 Farnworth and Kearsley	Lever, Mrs. A.
"	Longworth, P.
"	Paynter, J. O.
"	Smethurst, W.
142 Faversham	Mann, R. J.
143 Felling Industrial	Goodfellow, M.
"	Major, T. C.
144 Fleetwood	Jackson, A. E.
"	Jolly, J.
145 Garndiffaith and Varteg	Morris, T.
146 Gateshead	Flynn, W.
"	McShane, P.
147 Gilsland Convalescent Homes	Pannel, Mrs. J. T.
148 Glasgow—Drapery and Furnishing	Allan, J.
"	Downie, E.
"	Todd, A.
"	Warrington, J. W.
149 " Eastern	Gamble, J. S.
"	Turnbull, D.
150 " Kinning Park	Bowie, Miss J. D.
"	Campbell, D.
"	Smith, W.
"	Sutherland, A.
"	Wilkie, J.
"	Wilson, G. M.
151 " St. George	Henderson, A.
"	McGhie, W.
"	Smith, R.
152 " St. Rollox	Miller, L.
153 Glasgow - United Baking	Cadiz, M. H.
"	Galbraith, Mrs. W.
"	Greig, W.
"	Howe, W.
"	McAuslane, H.
"	McLean, T.
154 Glenfield Progress Boot and Shoe	Garner, J.
155 Glossop Dale	Buckley, D.
156 Gloucester	Ballinger, F. J.
"	Burlton, A. J.
"	Hill, E. J.
"	Jackson, J. T.
"	Prosser, Mrs. A. M.
157 Godalming	Turner, W.
158 Gomersal	Smith, P.
159 Goole	Holmes, L.
"	Holmes, Mrs. L.
160 Gorslas	Jones, T.
161 Grantham	Bradshaw, W.
"	Robinson, J. T.
"	Woodruff, C.
162 Grays	Cook, Mrs. E.
"	Eves, W.
"	Farrow, Mrs. J.
"	Howard, H.
"	Scott, F. W.
163 Great Grimsby	Bone, J. N.
"	Phillips, Mrs. M.
"	Steele, W. O.
164 Great Wigston	Stanton, G.
165 Greenock Central	Brown, W.
166 Guildford	Nicholas, W. H.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
167 Guisborough	Smith, J.
168 Glyncoirwg	Williams, J. T.
169 Halifax Industrial	Barracrough, H.
" "	Firth, G. H.
" "	Heydon, C. E.
" "	Holden, J.
" "	Jones, D.
" "	Whiteley, F.
170 Hamilton Baking	Sorbie, M.
171 " Central	Aitken, J.
" "	Trainer, J.
172 Hartlepoons	Arthington, R.
" "	Porter, C. S.
" "	Royal, S.
173 Hawick	Gass, G.
174 Hebden Bridge Fustian	Ainley, A.
" " "	Eastwood, W. H.
" " "	Howarth, E.
175 Heckmondwike	Parker, J.
" "	Parker, Mrs. J.
176 Hemel Hempstead	Herbert, Miss E. M.
177 Heptonstall	Crabtree, H. W.
178 Heywood	Booth, J.
" "	Bowker, J.
" "	Crossley, W.
179 Higher Hurst	Horridge, J.
" "	Loft, C.
180 Hinckley	Brown, F. T.
" "	Grimes, C.
181 Horbury	Cocker, S. L.
" "	Wright, G. B.
182 Horwich	Fearnhead, W.
" "	Stell, R.
183 Hucknall Torkard	Barlow, J. F.
" "	Howitt, J. C.
" "	Shaw, J.
184 Huddersfield	Battye, H.
" "	Hamer, J.
" "	Moorhouse, S. W.
" "	Nichol, A. P.
" "	Shaw, A.
" "	Wilson, G.
185 Hull	Boyes, W.
" "	Boynton, A. J.
" "	Hall, T. G.
" "	Litchfield, W.
186 " Printers	Booth, F. W.
187 Hyde	Oakes, J.
" "	Rose, R.
188 Ilkeston	Davison, D.
" "	Levers, A.
" "	Moore, Mrs. E. A.
" "	Trueman, A.
189 Ipswich	Beverley, A. G.
" "	Brighton, F.
" "	Catchpole, W.
" "	Steggall, O. J.
190 Irish Agricultural Organisation	O'Brien, F. C.
191 Irish Agricultural Wholesale	Palmer, J.
192 Irthlingborough	Palmer, A. J.
193 Keighley	Butterfield, F. W.
" "	Liddemore, A.
" "	Mackley, R.
" "	Midgley, F.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
193 Keighley	Mitchell, Miss M. E.
194 Kendal	Denney, W.
195 Kettering Industrial	White, A.
196 " Boot and Shoe	Adams, T.
197 " Clothing	Chapman, J.
198 " Corset	Harding, T.
199 " Union Boot and Shoe	Osborne, H.
200 Kidderminster	Judge, F.
"	Potter, H. J.
"	Porter, C. L.
"	Rogers, W.
201 Killamarsh	Roger, Mrs. W.
202 Kilmarnock Equitable	Swindell, J.
203 Kilnhurst	Malcolm, P.
204 King's Lynn	Williams, J. H.
"	Anderson, J. T.
205 Kirkby-in-Ashfield	Pye, W. E.
206 " Manufacturing	Sharpe, W.
207 Lancaster	Allsop, S.
"	Anderton, W.
208 Lane Dyehouse (Huddersfield)	Hargreaves, H.
209 Langley Mill and Aldercar	Bentley, J. S.
"	Bostock, G.
210 Leeds	Robins, G.
"	Argile, W.
"	Benson, F.
"	Dani, I. A. A.
"	Pearson, R.
"	Smith, J.
211 Leek and Moorlands	Ward, W. H.
"	Robinson, H.
212 Leicester	Smith, J. T.
"	Clarke, W. B.
"	Leadbeater, Mrs. J.
"	McCarthy, D.
"	Neale, A.
"	Stock, W. B.
213 " Anchor Boot and Shoe	Williams, J.
214 " Anchor Tenants	Martin, W.
215 " Boot and Shoe	Taylor, J. T.
216 " Carriage Builders	Adkins, J.
217 " Morning Star Sundries	Stubbs, E. H.
218 " Printing	Bent, E.
219 " Self-Help Boot and Shoe	Grant, J.
220 " Small Holdings	Bodicoat, J.
221 Leigh Friendly	Hubbard, W. G.
"	Ba'e, A.
"	Hill, T.
"	Prescott, J. L.
222 Leith Provident	Prescott, T.
"	Leitch, T.
223 Leven Reform	Scott, J. E.
224 Leven Valley	Dryburgh, G.
225 Lincoln Equitable	Cain, J. J.
"	Coulson, W.
"	Gylee, J.
"	Harris, Mrs. G.
"	Mathers, J.
"	Ostlick, C.
226 Lincoln Land and Building	Rudd, H. H.
227 Lisburn	Bell, S.
"	Adams, J. C.
228 Littleborough	Barbour, H.
"	Bridge, H.
229 Liverpool	Shepherd, J. W.
"	Blair, W. R.
"	Mann, Mrs. A.
"	Milligan, C.
"	Pool, D.
"	Raffe, Mrs. J. A.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

XXV.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
229 Liverpool.....	Travis, J.
230 Llanelly.....	Owen, T.
231 Lockhurst Lane.....	Williams, G.
" ".....	Cattell, W. H.
" ".....	Hilton, E.
232 London—Agricultural Organisation.....	Wickes, G. A.
233 " Anchor.....	Harris, J. N.
234 " Bookbinders.....	Foster, W. J.
235 " Civil Service Supply.....	Sedwell, A. J.
" " ".....	Greening, E. O.
" " ".....	Armstrong, F. R.
236 " Permanent Building.....	Bignall, J. E.
237 " Edmonton.....	Cogman, W. H.
" ".....	Mansbridge, A.
" ".....	Hart, Mrs. A. J.
" ".....	Maton, J.
238 " King's Cross Publishing.....	Russell, J. W.
239 " West London.....	Alcock, G. W.
240 Long Buckby.....	Collins, W.
241 Long Eaton.....	Croft, G. R.
" ".....	Bailey, J.
" ".....	Bullock, F.
" ".....	Cunniffe, C.
" ".....	Pattison, L.
" ".....	Wall, W.
242 " Printing.....	Wallis, A.
243 Longwood.....	Edinburgh, T. H.
244 Lower Cwmtwrch.....	Scott, W. R.
245 Luudenden.....	Rees, T.
" ".....	Holden, Mrs. E.
246 Macclesfield Equitable.....	Bowyer, W.
" ".....	Johnson, A.
" ".....	Proctor, S.
247 " Silk Manufacturing.....	Sanders, D.
248 Manchester and Salford.....	Turpin, B. J.
" ".....	Ashton, E.
" ".....	Baron, T.
" ".....	Battersby, Mrs. H.
" ".....	Smith, J. R.
249 Manchester Tenants.....	Whiteley, E.
250 Mansfield and Sutton.....	Whiteley, Mrs. E.
" ".....	Fisher, F. G.
" ".....	Kerslake, G. W.
" ".....	Morley, C. W.
251 Markinch.....	Norris, Mrs. A.
" ".....	Braid, G.
252 Maryport.....	Morris, A.
" ".....	Beattie, J.
" ".....	Crellin, G. T.
" ".....	Cuthell, W.
" ".....	Ferguson, G.
253 Masbro' Equitable Pioneers.....	Waugh, H.
" ".....	King, J. R.
" ".....	Pratt, W.
254 Midland Boot and Shoe Manufacturers (Wellington).....	Schofield, J.
255 Middlesbrough.....	Simons, S.
" ".....	Charlton, Mrs. M.
" ".....	Nunn, C. W.
" ".....	Pannell, J. T.
" ".....	Shepherd, Mrs. M.
" ".....	Spence, W.
256 Middleton and Tonge.....	Welsh, Mrs. C.
257 Midgley.....	Howles, S. K.
258 Mid-Rhondda.....	Taylor, W.
" ".....	Jones, Mrs. L. A.
" ".....	Arthur, T. L.
" ".....	Llewelyn, T.
" ".....	Mainwaring, W. H.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
259 Millom	Rigg, T.
260 Mirfield Perseverance	Rook, W.
261 Morley	Fudge, W.
"	Bradshaw, J.
"	Day, N.
"	Ineson, J.
"	Pierce, T.
262 Musselburgh and Fisherrow	Proctor, T. H.
"	Ford, W.
"	Holmes, W.
263 Nantymoel	Enoch, D.
"	Hellesey, J.
264 National Labour Press (Manchester)	Anderson, W. C.
265 National Managers' Association	Newbold, C. W.
266 Neath Abbey and Skewen	Davies, W.
267 Nelson	Elliott, E.
268 Netherfield	Wilkinson, T.
"	Adams, W. H.
"	Breward, W.
269 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	King, T.
"	Grant, W.
270 Newcastle-on-Tyne	Poll, H.
"	Barber, C. E.
"	Greer, J.
271 New Cumnock	Harvey, W.
272 Newhaven	Scott, J.
273 New Mills	Lander, Z.
274 Newport (Mon.)	Stones, W.
"	Davies, D. J.
"	Hurn, T. J.
"	Leng, H. J.
275 New Swindon	Squire, L. M.
"	Harris, H.
"	Llewellyn, S.
276 Newton Abbot	Llewellyn, Mrs. S.
277 New Tredegar	Parker, W. A.
278 Northampton	Lane, F.
"	Robertson, J.
"	Boyd, A.
"	Dartnell, P.
"	Metcalf, W.
"	Rogers, W. J.
"	Webb, J.
279 Northamptonshire Productive	Wooton, H.
280 North Shields	Green, F.
"	Clayton, W.
"	Houseman, C. F.
281 North-Western Convalescent Homes Association	King, J. W.
282 North-Western Educational Committees' Association	Bennett, C.
283 Norwich	Marsden, T.
284 Nottingham	Keeley, A. H.
"	Reeve, T. S.
"	Dickinson, H. A.
"	Holbrook, J.
"	Judd, A.
285 Nuneaton	Wallis, F.
"	Andrew, G. W.
"	Flood, A.
"	Shaw, T. W.
286 Oldham Equitable	Bardsley, E.
287 " Industrial	Hadfield, R.
"	Houghton, F.
"	Renshaw, H.
"	Renshaw, Mrs. H.
"	Sands, H. E.
"	Stuttard, H.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.

DELEGATES.

288 Ossett	Day, G.
289 Oxford	Illingworth, B.
"	Bolton, C.
"	Garrett, J.
"	Parsons, G.
"	Young, Mrs. E. A.
290 Paisley Equitable	Wilson, D.
291 " Manufacturing	Cook, A.
292 " Underwood Coal	Souden, J. R.
293 Pantdu	Macfarlane, D.
294 Parkestone and Bournemouth	Lewis, H.
"	Fielden, W.
295 Pathhead and Sinclairtown	Tiller, G.
"	Lennox, J.
296 Pembroke Dock	McConnell, Mrs. E.
297 Penarth	Holt, J. W.
"	Angove, W. E.
298 Pendleton	Toogood, F.
"	Collinge, F. R.
"	Davies, J.
"	Eddie, Mrs. F. M.
"	Jennings, F.
"	Lawman, S.
299 Penge and Beckenham	Salt, G.
300 Pen-y-Graig	Pamment, J.
"	Winch, A. J.
301 Perth (City of)	Job, W.
302 Peterborough	Thomas, G. J.
"	Mason, J.
"	Brock, J.
"	Crowder, S.
303 Pioneer Boot Works	Humberstone, W.
304 Planet Mutual Insurance, Birmingham	Pywell, E.
305 Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	Webster, J. G.
"	Simpson, J.
306 Plymouth	Maxwell, T.
"	Parker, J.
"	Hill, J.
"	Ireland, F.
"	Littlejohn, F.
"	Prince, S. G.
"	Wilton, F. J.
307 " Printers	Wonnacott, A. E.
308 Pollokshaws	Worley, Mrs. S.
309 Pontardulais	Ralston, H.
"	Hopkins, E.
310 Pontrhydyfen	Thomas, H.
311 Pontyberem	Jones, A. R.
312 Pontycymmer	Thomas, T.
"	Bowden, A.
313 Portsea Island	Harding, I.
"	Allen, J.
"	Mihell, J. H.
314 Preston	Willis, W. J.
"	Bamford, C.
"	Dawson, R.
"	Kilner, J. S.
315 Prestwich	Whittle, W. W.
"	Campbell, H.
"	Whittaker, R. H.
316 Queensbury	Benn, S.
"	Parkinson, C.
"	Parkinson, E.
317 Radcliffe and Pilkington	Emery, E.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
317 Radcliffe and Pilkington	Magnall, W.
318 Radstock	Pilling, F.
319 Raunds District	Bryant, J.
320 Ravensthorpe	Gent, J. W.
321 Reading	Lawrence, R.
"	Butterfield, J.
"	Broadley, A.
"	Reeves, C. C.
322 Resolven	Ridsdale, J. L. B.
323 Ripley	Jones, J. E.
"	Barker, J.
324 River and District (Dover)	Pearson, J.
325 Rochdale Equitable Pioneers	Ginever, C. A.
"	Entwistle, W. L.
"	Sutcliffe, S.
"	Sutcliffe, Mrs. S.
326 Roe Green, Worsley	Woolfenden, Miss L.
327 Runcorn and Widnes	Hussey, J.
"	Holt, H.
328 Rushden	Newall, J.
"	Cure, W. J.
"	Fletcher, W. M.
"	Freeman, E.
329 St. Helens	Francis, J.
"	Simm, J. C.
330 Sandbach	Winterbottom, G. H.
331 Scottish Co-operative Laundries	Braddock, G. W.
332 " Co-operator	Gibson, W.
333 " Co-operative Wholesale	Slater, Mrs. M.
"	Adam, T.
"	Allan, W. R.
"	Little, T.
"	Pearson, J.
"	Stewart, R.
"	Thomson, G.
"	Young, J.
334 Senghenydd and Aber Valley	Hitchings, T.
335 Sheerness Economical	Patterson, T.
336 Sheffield and Ecclesall	Bourne, H.
"	Lewis, W.
"	Penny, J.
"	Rose, W.
"	Turton, E. S.
"	Wilson, S. J.
337 Shrewsbury	Havward, J.
"	Lloyd, W.
338 Silsoe	Brightman, P.
339 Sittingbourne	Bodkin, A. J.
"	Colthup, A.
340 Skipton	Smith, J.
341 Slaithwaite	Jenkinson, T. L.
342 Soho (Birmingham)	Francis, J.
"	Lloyd, B. G.
"	Talbot, W. B.
"	Whitehouse, H.
343 Southampton	Gurd, G.
"	Perriman, F.
"	Perriman, Mrs. F.
344 Southwell	Arnold, G. A.
345 Sowerby Bridge	Fishwick, A.
"	Howarth, G. W.
346 Speroe Boot and Shoe, Barwell	Hincks, A.
347 Stanton Hill	Jessop, C.
"	Mann, C.
348 Staveley Town	Siddal, G.
"	Smith, W.
349 Stevenston	Reid, P.
350 Stirling	MacPherson, W.

LIST OF DELEGATES.

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NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
351 Stockport	Clews, S.
"	Hewitt, H.
"	Hollis, W. H.
"	Hollis, Mrs. W. H.
"	Manning, G.
"	Taylor, S.
352 Stocksbridge	Leather, P. H.
"	Pyrah, J.
"	Webster, C.
353 Stockton-on-Tees	Coates, J. G.
"	McEwen, G. A.
"	Stainsby, G. P.
354 Stowmarket	Wade, W.
355 Stratford (London)	Barnes, A.
"	Eggleton, H. G.
"	Moule, S. W.
"	Pardoe, R.
"	Sinden, J.
"	Stewart, J.
356 Styal	Mason, A.
357 Swallow	Spencer, E. Y.
358 Swansea	Davies, T. R.
"	John, E.
"	Leonard, A. M.
359 " Printers	Davies, J.
360 Swarthmoor and Ulverston	Coward, G.
361 Swinton (Chorley Road)	Holt, J.
362 Taibach and Port Talbot	Batey, H.
363 " " "	Jones, J.
363 Ten Acres and Stirchley (Birmingham)	Dudley, J.
"	Fagan, J. A.
"	Jeffs, W.
"	Moorby, E.
364 Thomson, Wm., and Sons	Thomson, G.
365 Thornton	Leach, F.
366 Throckley	Hutchinson, R.
"	Kirton, M.
367 Ton Industrial	Evans, D.
"	Smith, D. J.
"	Smith, E.
368 Torquay	Bulleid, R. J.
"	Perrett, F. S.
369 Trecynon and Cwmdare	Evans, W.
370 Tredegar	Blackwell, W.
"	Davies, E. J.
"	Whitney, W. J.
371 Treharris	Andrews, T.
"	Evans, J.
372 Treorchy	Jones, H. B.
373 Trimsaran	Lloyd, M. D.
374 Tunbridge Wells	Richards, H.
375 Twerton-on-Avon	Elliott, W.
"	Hulse, F.
"	Naish, R. G.
"	Rumble, Miss L. S.
"	Wibley, C. J.
376 Tyldesley	Cooper, J. W.
"	Dickinson, R.
377 Uppermill	Brierley, K.
378 Uppertown	Smith, G.
379 Vale of Leven (Alexandria)	McIntyre, A.
380 Wadebridge	Pearce, Mrs. H.

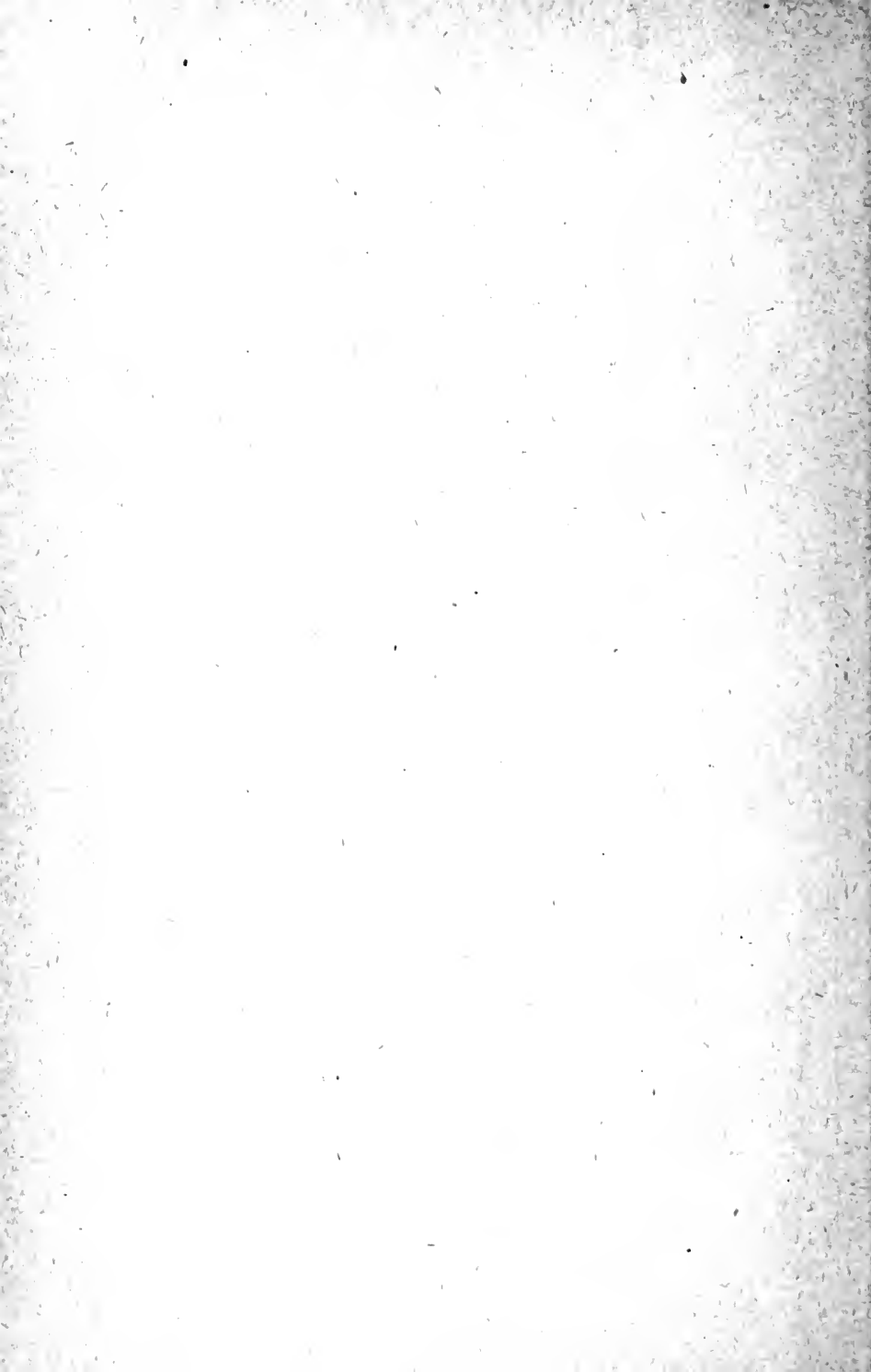
NAME OF SOCIETY.	DELEGATES.
881 Wakefield	Batty, Mrs. L.
"	Crowe, F.
"	Jacques, Mrs. S. A.
882 Walkden	Marsh, R.
"	Neath, J. T.
883 Walsall	Rogerson, W. M.
"	Abbotts, W.
"	Cresswell, F.
"	Emery, R. A.
"	Gwinnett, T.
"	Pearsall, T.
884 " Locks and Cart Gear	Searson, J. W.
885 Warrington	Harrison, W. G.
"	Atkinson, W.
"	Berry, F.
"	Clegg, W. E.
"	Haley, G.
"	Jones, A.
886 Wellingborough Midland	Upson, J.
"	Butler, B.
887 West Breconshire Farmers	Morley, P.
888 West Calder	Davies, D.
"	Pratt, W.
"	Russell, A.
"	Walker, J.
3-9 Weston-super-Mare	Wynne, P.
890 West Stanley	Bevan, J. W.
"	Carr, J.
891 West Wylam and Prudhoe	Henderson, T.
"	Forster, E. C.
892 West Yorkshire Coal Federation	Jacobson, W. F.
893 Whitland	Wilson, A.
894 Widdrington	Griffiths, G. J.
895 Wigan	Fisher, A.
"	Blackledge, W.
"	Gaskell, J.
896 Wigston Hosiers	Turner, Mrs. S.
897 Willesden	Boulter, F.
"	Hollands, A.
"	Layton, Mrs. E. A.
898 Wilton	Robinson, J.
899 Winsford	Prynn, R. R.
"	Burrows, A.
"	Fryer, W.
400 Woking	Hope, H.
401 Wolverton	Newbold, C. W.
"	Galtress, R. P. M.
"	Kightley, J. T.
402 Woolwich—Royal Arsenal	Shaw, J. T.
"	Byford, R.
"	Currie, F. W.
"	Goodall, R. A.
"	Ginns, A.
"	McIntyre, Mrs. I. R.
403 Worcester New	Real, Mrs. E.
"	Hall, A. W.
"	Merrett, G.
"	Merrett, Mrs. G.
404 Workington Beehive	Wood, H. A.
405 " Industrial	Fleetham, M.
"	Hayhurst, J. J.
"	Peel, G.
406 Worksop	Poole, J. H.
"	Roe, W. S.
407 Ynysybwl	Sheldon, J.
"	Ambrose, E.
"	Morrish, W. J.
408 York	Watkins, H.
"	Anderson, T.
"	Atkinson, Mrs. M. A.

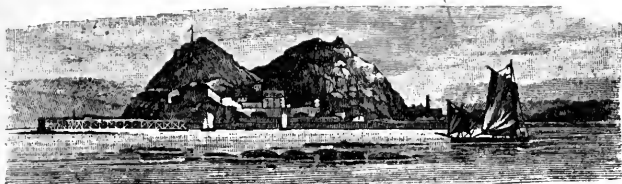
LIST OF DELEGATES.

xxxI.

NAME OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.	DELEGATES.
408 York	Hartley, J. H.
"	Richardson, A.
DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.	
<i>Midland Section.</i>	
409 Birmingham	Wilson, H.
410 Coventry	Hilton, E.
411 Derby	Clayton, F.
412 Leicester	Elliott, H.
413 Lincoln	Johnston, W. F.
414 Northampton and Earls Barton	James, G. T.
415 Nottingham	Shacklock, J. G.
416 Shropshire and Mid-Wales	Griffiths, E.
417 Wellingborough and Kettering	Foulds, A. J.
<i>Northern Section.</i>	
418 South Durham	Strickland, J. W.
<i>North-Western Section.</i>	
419 Airedale	Firth, A.
420 Bolton	Barlow, T.
421 Dewsbury	Stansfield, E.
422 Huddersfield	Bland, J.
423 Manchester	Pogson, D.
424 South Yorkshire	Dimberline, J.
<i>Scottish Section.</i>	
425 Ayrshire	Howat, R.
426 Border Counties	Ralston, T. N.
427 Central	Waddell, D.
428 East of Scotland	Ellis, R.
429 Falkirk	Newlands, R.
430 Fife and Kinross	McConnell, P.
431 Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen	Muir, J.
432 Renfrewshire	Muir, J.
<i>Southern Section.</i>	
433 Essex and Suffolk	Clift, C.
434 Kent	Curling, A. J.
435 Metropolitan, North	Haywood, F. P.
436 Oxford	Ramsey, T.
<i>South-Western Section.</i>	
437 Bristol and Somerset	Hill, T. W.
438 Cornwall	Trinwith, A. E.
439 Devon	Willis, F. E.
<i>Western Section.</i>	
440 Brecon, Monmouth, and East Glamorgan	Godfrey, S.
441 Gloucester and Hereford	Davies, S. T.
442 Mid-Glamorgan	Williams, S.
443 West Wales	Eager, J.

Total number of persons present at Congress, 1,044.





SPECIAL MEETING of the CENTRAL BOARD.

SATURDAY, 21st APRIL, 1917.

The Central Board held a special meeting at Holyoake House, Manchester, on Saturday, 21st April, to consider the report to Congress and the resolutions to be submitted. The following is a report of the proceedings. Present :—

IRISH SECTION.

Mr. R. Fleming (secretary).

MIDLAND SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bastard, J. Butcher, S. Butler, W. J. Douse, G. Harris, A. H. Jones, J. Langley, W. Millerchip, J. Millington, J. G. Shacklock, and C. A. W. Saxton.

NORTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. J. C. Aiston, G. Bedford, S. Galbraith, M.P., W. R. Rae, W. Scott, and A. Stoddart (secretary).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. E. Booth, W. Dewhurst, S. Fairbrother, S. R. Foster, G. Goodenough, J. Greenwood, W. Gregory, J. W. Hargreaves, F. Hayward, F. Houghton, S. C. Hughes, J. Johnston, G. Major, J. Morrell, J. Pollitt, W. Swindlehurst, J. Thompson, T. Way, B. Woolfenden, and J. Bradshaw (secretary).

SCOTTISH SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bisset, J. Deans, P. Loney, J. Lucas, J. Patterson, A. Purdie, J. M. Wilkie, and G. Wilson.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. H. Brown, W. T. Charter, M. H. Clear, Mrs. M. A. Gasson, Messrs. A. Hainsworth, E. King, R. Rowsell, W. J. Salmon, and B. Williams (secretary); also H. J. May (hon. member).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. R. Andrews, J. T. Davis, J. Marks, R. Pearce, Rev. G. A. Ramsay, and W. H. Watkins.

WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. H. Bryant, R. R. Chappell, and J. P. Davies.
Also the General and Assistant Secretaries.

The GENERAL SECRETARY read letters and telegrams from Messrs. J. Allan and J. Lockhead (Scottish Section), S. Foulger (Southern Section), and D. Evans and E. R. Wood (Western Section), intimating their inability to be present.

The GENERAL SECRETARY also stated that in the absence of Mr. Evans it would be necessary for them to appoint a chairman.

Messrs. Charter (Southern Section) and Millerchip (Midland Section) were nominated, and the choice of the meeting fell upon Mr. Charter.

Mr. CHARTER, accepting the invitation, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him that morning. They had a long agenda, and he hoped they would get through the business expeditiously, at the same time, not neglecting points of interest and of great value.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and approved.

GLASGOW SOCIETIES AT VARIANCE.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that two of the Glasgow societies, St. George and Cowlairst, were at variance regarding the development of a certain district co-operatively, and that the St. George Society had written the Central Office in reference to the matter. Meetings of the committees of the two societies had been held in conjunction with the Sectional Board, and failing an agreement it had been decided that the matter should stand over until after the war. Unfortunately, the Cowlairst Society had opened a branch in the area in dispute, which the St. George Society claimed to be part of its territory, and this led the St. George Society writing to the Central Office protesting against the action of the Cowlairst Society, and asking that the Central Board should refer to the matter in its report to Congress, with a view to a resolution censuring the Cowlairst Society being adopted. He had replied saying that it was not customary for the Central Board to include in its report to Congress protests of that nature from individual societies, and subsequently received a communication from the St. George Society expressing regret that we could not submit the matter of the resolution before the forthcoming Congress: at the same time noting the action which we had taken, and suggesting that the Board should re-consider the question with a view to their request being granted.

Mr. J. DEANS (Scottish Section) said the present dispute had been going on for three years. Many years ago they had an agreement as to boundary lines, and the district they were now concerned with was given to the St. George Society. But although the district was within the St. George Society's territory, the Cowlairs Society had more members in it, and did more trade in it than the St. George Society, and wanted to open premises there to serve its members. The Sectional Board met the committees of the two societies, and appointed a special committee to visit the locality, and at their last meeting it was agreed that at the present time it was not advisable for a revision of boundary lines or even of promoting a scheme of amalgamation. It was also agreed, except by the Cowlairs Society's representatives, to let the matter lie over until normal times came round again. They, as a Sectional Board, were not in favour of the question going on the agenda for the forthcoming Congress.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we shall agree with the General Secretary's suggestions, and follow on the lines he has laid down.

A chorus of "ayes" and "agreed" indicated the feeling of the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF LABOUR ADVISER.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the decision of the United Board to appoint a labour adviser as the head of the proposed labour department at the Union's headquarters, and said applications for the position had been received and considered by the Office Committee. At its meeting the previous evening, however, the committee decided that before it went any further with regard to making an actual appointment, a statement should be made to the Central Board.

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that the matter of appointing a labour adviser arose out of a joint meeting of the North-Western Sectional Board and representatives of the district associations, which made recommendations to the United Board in favour of such an appointment. The United Board accepted the recommendations, and following the advertisement put in the co-operative press, 150 persons applied for the official application form. The number of forms returned was 135, and the Office Committee, at a meeting held at Birmingham the previous week, went through them very carefully, and weeded them down to 29. The Committee held another meeting last evening, and further reduced the applications to seven. They also decided to recommend the United Board that before any further steps in the matter were taken the Central Board should be consulted. The United Board had held a meeting that morning, and agreed to the recommendation of the Office Committee. The United Board would be meeting again on 12th May, and unless they decided otherwise that morning the Board would proceed to make a final appointment.

Mr. R. R. CHAPPELL (Western Section) asked for information regarding the nature of the appointment and the duties of the proposed labour adviser.

The GENERAL SECRETARY read the following extract from an official memorandum :—

The duties of the labour adviser will depend upon developments which take place during the next few years; but the United Board of the Co-operative Union have at present in mind the following duties :—

The establishment of a labour department specialising on labour matters.

Advising co-operative societies on labour matters and assisting them to avoid or settle disputes, and act on their behalf or with them in cases submitted for arbitration or conciliation.

Acting in a secretarial or other assigned capacity in the work of the Hours and Wages Boards, and the Conciliation Boards, which have recently been set up in the co-operative movement. The adviser may similarly be required to act upon, or with, the Joint Committee of trade-unionists and co-operators.

Advising societies in regard to shop and working conditions.

Advising the movement in regard to methods of solving labour problems.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section) said the resolution passed by the North-Western Sectional Board and the district representatives asked for the appointment of a labour adviser for the section, and not for the whole of the United Kingdom. Very possibly it was desirable that a labour adviser should be appointed for the section if not for the movement as a whole. But what he wanted to draw attention to was the power of the United Board in a matter of this kind, and he submitted, most respectfully, that although the rules of the Union authorised the United Board to engage, dismiss, or alter the salaries of the officials of the Union, there was another clause in the rules which said that that authority was given subject to any resolution passed by the Central Board or by Congress. The Congress, of course, was the supreme body for the government of the work of the Union, and the Central Board was the committee for carrying out the wishes of Congress. Neither the Central Board nor Congress had had an opportunity of dealing with the appointment of a labour adviser until that morning, and the appointment might have been made without either party being consulted, as the committee dealing with the matter seemed to be in such a hurry. He doubted whether it would be possible to get a man with all the qualifications desired to fill the position; the amount of tact and other qualities required rendered it very difficult. He thought it was more important that they should carry on, even more strongly than they were, the educational work of the movement. They wanted to educate their committees, their members, and their workers, especially their workers, to practise the principles on which co-operation was based. It was a disgrace that these labour difficulties should crop up in the movement, and the strikes, such as they had from time to time, were entirely opposed to the principles of co-operation. They wanted to create such an intelligent co-operative

opinion that difficulties he had in mind would be done away with and render unnecessary such an official as it was now proposed to appoint.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the rules of the Union gave the United Board power, subject to any resolution of the Congress or the Central Board, to appoint, and if needful remove, all officials of the Union, and fix or alter their salaries. Any resolution by Congress or the Central Board must be of a negative character, otherwise the United Board had the power to appoint or remove officials as it thought the best interests of the Union would be served. The idea of appointing a labour adviser was to obviate the necessity of strikes. So far as the education of committee-men was concerned, he said the Central Education Committee was strongly urging the necessity of this, and was at the present moment preparing a manual for committee-men.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) expressed the view that Mr. Johnston's argument had been demolished by their General Secretary's statement. Unless forbidden by Congress, it was provided in the rules of the Union that the United Board "shall do this or that." He did not think the labour adviser would have much, or any, spare time after he had fulfilled the duties he would be called upon to do. In labour disputes they had experts on the opposite side, but no experts on their side. It was not possible for their officials at the Central Office to be experts in everything. They must have assistance, and the assistance must be of an expert character, unless they were to go under every time.

Mr. J. T. DAVIS (South-Western Section) said he wanted to submit that this was an instance where the United Board had exceeded its powers, and to express disagreement with the interpretation placed upon the rules by the General Secretary. He based his contention on Rule 39, where the power invested in the United Board was very clearly indicated. It was there stated that, subject to the Central Board or Congress, the United Board "shall appoint," &c. He did not agree that the resolution of the Central Board or Congress had to be negative in character, as suggested by the General Secretary, and said it was time they realised their responsibilities as a Central Board. The United Board was not the Central Board, but only a part of it, and should act as such. According to the interpretation of the rules by the General Secretary, it was scarcely necessary for the United Board to submit anything to the Central Board, and that course might have been taken in the present case.

Mr. G. BISSET (Scottish Section) said he seconded Mr. Rae's motion that they agreed to the appointment of a labour adviser, and that the matter be left in the hands of the United Board.

Attention was drawn to the fact that Mr. Rae had not moved a resolution, but he immediately did so on the lines suggested by Mr. Bisset.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section) said the United Board could not possibly appoint a labour adviser, even in face of the interpretation placed on the rules by the General Secretary. He took the words "shall appoint," to mean that the United Board should make appointments when vacancies

fell due. In the present instance it was not a question of a vacancy, it was a question of creating a new office, and when the United Board wanted to create new positions, they should, in his opinion, first of all seek the authority of the Central Board or of Congress. There might be years when this man had nothing to do through no labour troubles arising, and the question was: "What was he going to do with his time?"

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) said he hoped they would not be led away by the specious arguments of the last two speakers. He thought it had been clearly proved that the Co-operative Union did stand badly in need of an adviser on labour matters. With regard to the legality or illegality of the action taken by the United Board, he suggested their friends should read item 8 of Rule 39, because, in his opinion, that part of the rule gave the United Board power to take any action it thought necessary for the welfare of the Union and the co-operative movement generally. They wanted a labour adviser, and the longer they delayed appointing one the worse position would the Union and the societies generally get into in regard to labour matters. He hoped they would endorse the action of the United Board, and by approving show they were in sympathy with the Board in seeking to make the suggested appointment.

The CHAIRMAN said he felt most of them agreed that the rendering of the rule by their General Secretary was the correct one. So far as Mr. Johnston and education were concerned, he said the work of this man would be very largely educational. He would also assist, by using tact and knowledge, in avoiding the unfortunate disputes to which Mr. Johnston had referred. He thought the appointment of a labour adviser would have a far-reaching effect on the policy and influence of the Co-operative Union.

Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section) raised a point of order. Were they discussing a constitutional question or a definite appointment?

The CHAIRMAN said he did not think a constitutional question arose on this resolution at all. They were distinctly voting for or against the appointment of a labour adviser, and the adoption of the resolution would carry with it the recognition and approval of the position which the United Board had taken up to the present. There might be a difference of opinion in the meeting with regard to the action taken by the United Board, but he himself thought the Board had gone about the matter in the right way.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the meeting, and declared it carried by 37 votes to 12 votes.

Mr. W. H. BROWN (Southern Section) said that arising out of the discussion he would like to move that they instruct the United Board before creating new offices in the future to consult the Central Board or Congress. He thought that had they done so in this case they would have prevented the little wrangling which had taken place that morning. They were all probably in favour of the appointment of a labour adviser, but he thought the United Board, when considering the question of creating

new offices, should, before coming to a decision, consult the body which elected it to carry on the work of the Union.

Mr. J. T. DAVIS (South-Western Section) seconded the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN said he would have to rule the resolution out of order, but he was prepared to accept the discussion on behalf of the United Board.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) wanted to know whether they were to take that as a censure on the United Board? It looked rather like it.

The CHAIRMAN said he did not look at the matter in that light. The discussion had given them the views of members of the Central Board, which would guide and influence the United Board in its future work. He did not think they were tying the hands of the United Board at all.

REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT.

The CHAIRMAN said the question of direct representation of co-operators in Parliament had been remitted by the United Board to the Central Board for consideration. They would find a number of resolutions from societies in the report, and it was for them to say in what form the matter should be placed before the forthcoming Congress.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the question was remitted to the Sectional Boards for their views, and the voting on the resolution in favour of representation in Parliament was as follows:—39 votes for and 14 votes against. The United Board did not act upon that vote, but left the matter over for the present meeting of the Central Board. The Joint Parliamentary Committee had already adopted a resolution in favour of Parliamentary representation, and they would find the terms of it in their report. The Manchester and District Defence Committee had sent out a circular to all societies asking them to send in a resolution (which was enclosed with the circular) in favour of co-operators being represented in Parliament and on public bodies, and 104 societies had acted accordingly. They would also find that resolution in their report. In addition the Birmingham Society had sent in a resolution, which safeguarded the matter somewhat. The resolution was the same as the one sent in by the 104 societies, with the proviso that before any definite action was taken the proposal should be submitted to and approved by a majority of the societies members of the Union. They had the full terms of that resolution also in their report.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) asked if they had the power to remit the Birmingham resolution to the other societies which had sent in resolutions, and ask them whether they would adopt it in preference to their own. She suggested this in order that they might send one resolution forward to Congress instead of three.

The CHAIRMAN said they had power as the Central Board to adopt the Birmingham resolution, and then inform societies as to what had been done.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) said the last clause of the Birmingham Society's resolution was suggested for the protection of societies.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) said it was with diffidence he spoke on a matter of such paramount importance to co-operators, but he felt impelled to do so. He thought something should be done by the Central Board to stimulate Congress on the advisability of taking political action. For years some of them, as they knew, had been advocating that co-operators should seek direct representation in the House of Commons. There was a likelihood that they were about to receive their Taff Vale, and he hoped co-operators, like the trade-unionists, would rise to the occasion. They had had profiteers and fleecers in Parliament for years, aiming at the very foundations of their societies, and they had already party "hacks" telling them not to take political action. They wanted to bring about the time when, as Macaulay wrote: "None was for a party and all were for the State." Organisations of profiteers had their representative in Parliament to watch and safeguard their interests, and it was time co-operators placed themselves in a position to do the same. It was quite true they had some good friends in the House of Commons, but not one of them could voice the claims and aspirations of their movement. The Scottish Section, without a dissentient voice, had for years advocated a policy of this kind. He saw no reason why they should not go forward to Congress strengthened in their resolution to have their own representatives in the House of Commons. Too long had they been content to remain outside Parliament. They boasted of the greatness of their movement, their finances and their membership, and yet they were in the abject position of lobbying and asking people to see that the Government did not tax their savings or interfere with their legitimate interests in other ways. It was neither dignified nor right that the movement should lower itself to lobbying inside the House of Commons, and he hoped the time was not far distant when they would take up a more dignified attitude. They wanted to be in a position to fight their opponents in the House of Commons, and to do that they must send their own men imbued with the principles of co-operation. He saw no reason, even if the rules did not provide for it, why they should not form co-operative election committees with that aim and object in view. He had pleasure in moving the Parliamentary Committee's resolution, which was as follows:—

That, in the opinion of this Joint Parliamentary Committee, the time has now arrived for the co-operative movement to take the necessary steps to secure direct representation in Parliament as the only way of effectively voicing its demands and safeguarding its interests.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) formally seconded the resolution.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) said he did not think any arguments were needed so far as the principle of direct representation was concerned, and suggested they should concern themselves with putting it into operation. He thought the Birmingham resolution would be absolutely fatal to the idea working at all.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought it was distinctly understood they were now discussing the matter of principle, and that the question of procedure and method would follow.

Mr. F. HOUGHTON (North-Western Section) suggested that the Chairman should test the meeting by show of hands, and thereby ascertain whether they should continue to discuss a principle which, in all probability, they were all in favour of. He took it that none of them had come to the meeting to waste time.

The GENERAL SECRETARY, in reply to a question, said one or two of the Sectional Boards refused to take a vote on the question now before them because they thought the matter should be discussed at the Central Board meeting and not in their own Sectional Board rooms.

Mr. J. JONHSTON (North-Western Section) rose to a point of order. Was it the intention of that Board to put the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee before Congress without any recommendation of its own?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

A vote was then taken on the principle of direct representation in Parliament, and it resulted as follows:—For, 47 votes; against, 19 votes.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section), on behalf of the Birmingham Society, moved the following resolution:—

- (1) That, in view of the persistent attacks and misrepresentations made by the opponents of the co-operative movement in Parliament, and on local administrative bodies, this Congress is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should secure direct representation in Parliament and on all local administrative bodies.
- (2) It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the above resolution, but in view of the possible far-reaching consequences of the introduction of political action into the movement, action shall only be taken after the proposal has been submitted to and approved by a majority of the societies members of the Union, and voting on the basis as per Rule 18.

He thought the resolution would commend itself to them more readily and receive their support to a greater extent than any of the others. During the last eighteen months there had been a great change in co-operative opinion, more especially amongst members of committees, on this question of direct representation. He did not think he had need to enumerate the reasons which had brought about that change of opinion; sufficient was it to say that it was there and that they had to take notice of it. A number of them had been in favour of labour representation, but they had hesitated about introducing it into the co-operative movement for two reasons: (1) Because it was, or they thought it was, against the general principles of co-operation as laid down by the Rochdale Pioneers; and (2) because

it would lead to great dissension and cleavage amongst co-operators on political questions. But there were great numbers of their members who could hardly be termed co-operators, and the question was: "How far had the majority of them been converted to the idea that it was essential that they should have direct representation in Parliament?" They must admit doubt on that point, and that was why the Birmingham Society suggested that the views of societies should be ascertained before they committed themselves to any definite line of action. They must carry them all with them.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) drew attention to the fact that they had agreed to the principle of direct representation, and suggested that it was practically impossible for the number of people present that morning to draft and agree upon a specific resolution. They wanted an omnibus resolution gathering up the points in the various resolutions now before them, and to endeavour to discuss each proposal separately would, in his opinion, be a waste of time. The Standing Orders Committee at Congress had full powers to deal with resolutions of that character, and to draft resolutions meeting the wishes of the various parties sending in proposals for discussion at Congress, in order to save the time of delegates. Now that they had agreed to the principle, he suggested that they should leave it to the United Board, the Parliamentary Committee, or some other party to draft a resolution for submission to Congress.

The CHAIRMAN said he took it that whatever resolution they adopted societies would be given sufficient time to discuss it before their delegates were called upon to deal with it at Congress.

Mr. W. H. BROWN (Southern Section) pointed out that the Birmingham resolution rather delayed matters so far as the Central Board was concerned, and he suggested that they should take the Stratford resolution, which aimed at the same object as the one from Birmingham, and which was as follows, as an amendment:—

That in view of the many matters of vital interest to the co-operative movement, such as the Excess Profits Duty, the threatened Income Tax on dividends, the State control of wheat, sugar, coal, &c., which must come before Parliament in the immediate future, this Congress hereby instructs the Central Board to consider ways and means of ensuring the adequate representation of co-operative knowledge and opinion in Parliament.

Proceeding, Mr. Brown said the Stratford resolution also had the advantage in that it showed to the general mass of co-operators, by referring to the Excess Profits Duty and the threatened imposition of the Income Tax on co-operative dividends, why they should take political action. He took it that their object in going in for Parliamentary representation was not so much with the idea of mixing up with politics as it was to get on with their own business, and look after the interests of the consumers of this country. They had now accepted the principle of representation in

Parliament, and should now turn their attention to devising ways and means of carrying out their desires.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) seconded the amendment.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottishⁿ Section) supported the Parliamentary Committee's resolution. It covered the whole ground, and in adopting it they would not go very far astray.

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that the Parliamentary Committee, at its meeting on the previous Wednesday, considered its report to Congress, and decided to delete the words which immediately followed its resolution, viz. : " This resolution now comes before Congress for its official endorsement or rejection."

Mr. G. MAJOR (North-Western Section) said they were being attacked it was true, but they had not yet framed a programme that anybody would like to contest a seat upon. The Stratford resolution did attempt to lay down a programme, but they wanted to go a step further and say what they expected from candidates. That might be premature at the present stage, but he did not see that they could go much further in the business they were now discussing unless they put some backing behind their resolution and say what they were out for. They were presumably in favour of the nationalisation of the land and other things of national utility, all of which might go to build up their programme.

Mr. J. PATTERSON (Scottish Section) pointed out the difference between the Parliamentary resolution and the one sent in by the Birmingham Society. The Birmingham resolution suggested that they should seek representation on public bodies as well as in the House of Commons, and with that he heartily agreed. By having representation on local administrative bodies they would have a better chance of frustrating the agitation for the imposition of the Income Tax on co-operative dividends. He suggested that the Parliamentary Committee should alter its resolution in accordance with the one sent in by Birmingham, and then he would be prepared to vote for it.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Midland Section) said he wished to extract from the meeting a distinct declaration that they were a democratic body. By people outside they were described as autocrats. He did not care which resolution was adopted, but he wanted them to be quite clear as to what they desired. The Stratford resolution mentioned several things, but he would like to know what was meant by "&c." He suggested that instead of "&c." they should say " and the advancement of all or any other democratic principle."

Mr. W. H. BROWN (Southern Section) : The advancement of democratic principles is included in the word "&c."

Mr. A. H. JONES (Midland Section) said they were settling a question which would probably have more effect on their movement than any other they could mention, and he would like to know where they stood.

The CHAIRMAN : We have already decided the principle, and we are now discussing the best form in which we can fight our opponents.

Mr. C. A. W. SAXTON (Midland Section) said they had so far only committed themselves to going before Congress with a resolution in favour of direct representation in Parliament, and what they had to consider now was the method by which they could give effect to their desires. Many of them thought they should have representation in Parliament, but they did not think there should be affiliation with any other body. There was something in what Mr. Major said, that it was necessary for them to have a co-operative policy. They did not want a resolution vague in character, they wanted something of a definite nature to place before Congress.

Mr. E. BOOTH (North-Western Section) spoke in favour of the latter part of the Birmingham resolution. Some years ago this question was before Congress and the movement generally. Congress directed that societies should be given an opportunity of discussing the matter and come to a decision. That opportunity was given societies, and by an overwhelming majority they decided against the direct representation of co-operators in Parliament. Societies had not been consulted since, and, therefore, the latter part of the Birmingham resolution met the situation. Let them pass the resolution, and then give societies an opportunity of endorsing it. If societies did endorse the resolution then they could all go solidly forward. They did not want to have a difference of opinion between the Central Board and the movement on this question, otherwise they would be in the same position as they were on the last occasion the movement was consulted.

The CHAIRMAN said he proposed to take a vote on the three resolutions, and suggested that the resolutions which received the highest and the second highest number of votes should be voted upon again.

The suggestion was agreed to, and the result of the vote was as follows :—

Parliamentary Committee's resolution	.. ..	31 votes.
Stratford resolution	.. .. .	4 „
Birmingham resolution	.. .. .	23 „

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) inquired whether the Parliamentary Committee, granting that its resolution was carried, would be prepared to suggest to the Central Board, at its meeting on Congress Tuesday, ways and means of putting it into operation.

Mr. H. J. MAY (secretary of the Joint Parliamentary Committee) suggested that the responsibility for putting that or any other resolution into effect lay with the Central Board, but if a preliminary measure, instead of referring the matter to a special sub-committee or the United Board, or anybody else, they chose to refer it to the Parliamentary Committee and ask them to submit ways and means of carrying out the resolution, they had a perfect right to do that!

The CHAIRMAN observed that the onus for carrying out the resolution must rest upon them as a Central Board. That could not be too strongly

emphasised. He then put the Parliamentary Committee's resolution and the one sent in by Birmingham to the vote, with the following result :—

Parliamentary Committee's resolution	.. ..	30 votes.
Birmingham resolution	.. .. .	22 ..

The CHAIRMAN then asked if they could have a unanimous vote in favour of the Parliamentary Committee's resolution, but objection was taken, and it was agreed that the figures should stand.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the Parliamentary Committee had expressed a desire that the resolution sent in by the 104 societies should go at the end of its report, and the request was unanimously agreed to.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the report to Congress, said the forthcoming Congress would be one of the most memorable on record, and it probably would have greater influence on the movement than anything else for a long number of years.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) asked if something could not be done to make the figures taken from the Board of Trade returns and their own agree.

The CHAIRMAN: We will take a note of the observation.

Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South-Western Section) suggested there should be a reference in the report dealing with the Wholesale Society to the recent increase in share capital, but the Chairman thought that was a matter which scarcely came within the province of the Central Board.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said it was proposed to make an addition to the report regarding the Co-operative Press Agency. He (the General Secretary) also stated that it would be almost impossible to complete the statistical returns for Congress. Over 400 societies had not yet returned the form asking for statistical information. Doubtless the reason for that was the depletion of staffs on account of enlistments.

Mr. W. SWINDLEHURST (North-Western Section) suggested that the district associations might be communicated with regarding statistical information from societies, and was informed by the General Secretary that the central office did that every year.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) drew attention to the returns supplied by the Co-operative Insurance Society, and said there was great disparity between premiums received and claims paid. Could any explanation be given as to what became of the difference?

The CHAIRMAN: We have not got the figures for 1916 in this report.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) asked if it was necessary to give such a long list of pamphlets and leaflets issued by the Union in the Congress report.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the list was given in the report every year.

Other members observed that the list served to advertise the publications, and was of value as a means of reference.

MISSIONARY VANS.

Mr. W. H. BROWN (Southern Section) asked if the Joint Propaganda Committee had considered the question of having missionary vans, and if so could any information be supplied to that meeting? There was nothing in the report about the matter.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the matter had been considered, and it was thought the question of missionary vans might be included in the national programme. The utilisation of such vans in a comprehensive scheme for advertising the movement would be recommended to Congress.

PARLIAMENTARY MATTERS.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section) said he noticed that the Parliamentary Committee recommended societies to discourage and limit non-members' trading, and advised them not to go in for contracts. He thought both the recommendation and the advice were absolutely against the best interests of co-operation. It was time they took a firm stand on these matters. Co-operation could only increase in the future by allowing people to come into the movement first of all as non-members. Many people were associated with the stores simply as purchasers, and if they were to cut them off entirely a possible source of increase in membership in the future would be nullified. When people who were simply purchasers realised the advantages of co-operation they would become members. He did not think tendering for contracts was an infringement of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, and if they really believed in their principles he did not see how they could cease to tender for such contracts. The co-operative movement was out to let everybody benefit by mutual trading, and if they did not go in for school board and corporation work, they would simply be nullifying their efforts, and saying that they were only going to be small traders one with another. The Parliamentary Committee's recommendation, if it be adopted, would be a hindrance to the movement, and he moved that that part of its report be withdrawn.

The GENERAL SECRETARY pointed out that what Mr. Wilkie referred to was part of a circular drawn up by the United Board and the Parliamentary Committee, and as it had been issued to societies it could scarcely be withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN said that under the circumstances he could not accept the resolution. The report of the Parliamentary Committee was before them for confirmation or otherwise.

Mr. WILKIE then suggested that they as the Central Board should enter a protest against the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee.

Mr. J. PATTERSON (Scottish Section) supported the suggestion. The

recommendation in question was simply tying the hands of their societies. Those who wrote the paragraph evidently had very little experience in the working of societies. It would also interfere with the arrangements they were making to combat the agitation in favour of the taxation of co-operative savings. He knew of a case where soldiers dissatisfied with the food received in camp went to the local co-operative store for it. But the recommendation now before them, if adopted, would prevent societies helping soldiers in that way.

Mr. W. J. DOUSE (Midland Section) said everybody in the room was first of all a non-member. They were asked to maintain the position of the movement, but it looked as though somebody behind the scenes was playing into the hands of the private trader against the glorious cause of co-operation. He said they had a distinctive right, if a man passing their door saw something in their window or shop he wanted, to let him have it. The recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee practically meant that only the private trader had the right to enter for contracts, but he contended that if the co-operative movement had the power and brains to serve the community it had equal right to tender for public contracts. Why should the right be limited to one section of the community?

Mr. H. J. MAY said he desired to say a few words, not because of the importance of the circular, but because of the supreme importance of the principles that were involved in what was stated there. Mr. Patterson said that the person who penned the paragraph must have no practical knowledge of the working of their societies. He pleaded guilty to the penning, but not to the ignorance. They wanted to maintain the position of the movement with regard to non-members' trade. In the circular they suggested how they could do that, namely, "by making the facilities for membership as easy as possible," and by "bringing such facilities definitely to the notice of non-members by propaganda." There was their remedy. They might ask why was there need to stop non-members' trade at all. The Parliamentary Committee did not suggest that they should cut off their non-members' trade, but that, as it was simply an accommodation to special circumstances, they should not encourage it. There were societies, chiefly in Scotland, which advertised in the newspapers and bid one against another for non-members' trade. How could they resist the taxation of their profits if they suffered that thing? Surely with regard to contracts they had to choose between the commercial or the co-operative position. If they were out for the ideals of co-operation and to establish a new system of society for goodness sake let them stand true to their ideals. If, on the other hand, they were out to make profit, as many members of Parliament said they were, let them be frank about it and not describe the taxation of profits as a hardship and injustice. There was nothing in the resolution which the Parliamentary Committee submitted which cut across the statement made by Mr. Wilkie. He suggested that non-members' trade was necessary. It was necessary, it was desirable. All the opponents had shifted their ground.

They said now co-operation was a delightful thing. They had been in favour of it all along, but this non-members' trade they were going to have from them, and that was what they were centralising their efforts upon at the present time. It was for the protection of the co-operative movement that the Parliamentary Committee suggested that they should discourage rather than encourage non-members' trade, and that they should use it as a means of propaganda and not as a source of profit.

Rev. G. A. RAMSAY (South Western Section) said he could not endorse the statement of policy by the Parliamentary Committee. There was very little statement of policy, but a great deal of rhetorical bluff. The Parliamentary Committee said co-operators from the first had shown their willingness to pay the Excess Profits Duty on the same principle as it was levied on the private traders. That was an acknowledgment that they were on a par with the private traders. It was an impossible position for them to take up. The Parliamentary Committee suggested that they should recognise the Excess Profits Duty as a moral injustice and yet accept it. He was of opinion that it was time they had some plain speaking. If they had made a blunder let them recognise it and get out of it. No good purpose would be served in trying to cover it up.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) said Mr. May had made a sweeping allegation against the societies in Scotland regarding non-members' trade and he rose to deny it. He asked Mr. May to say how many societies in Scotland were advertising for non-members' trade? He knew there were some sinners, but Mr. May gave him the impression that every society was advertising extensively for non-members' trade. (No, no). He thought it was time the back of the Parliamentary Committee was stiffened a bit. The Committee had given the position of the movement away in regard to excess profits, and seemed to have allowed itself to be intimidated by representatives of the Government saying that if the movement did not accept and pay the duty worse things would follow.

A resolution was moved protesting against the action of the Parliamentary Committee in recommending societies to limit non-members' trade and not to tender for contracts, but on being put to the vote the Chairman declared it defeated.

The GENERAL SECRETARY pointed out that in the resolution on the Excess Profits Duty they drew the attention of the Government to the anomalous position occupied by the co-operative movement, and asked for amendments to the Finance Acts which would give their societies complete immunity from the operations of the tax.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section) expressed the view that the resolution submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on excess profits did not adequately represent the feeling of the co-operative movement. Implied in that resolution was the acceptance of the view of their opponents, that co-operative societies could and did make excess profits. To that he

entirely demurred. He therefore suggested that the resolution which was to go before Congress should be amended as follows :—

That this Congress, whilst recognising the present necessity for a special tax on excess profits arising from or made possible by the war conditions, indignantly protests against the tax being levied on co-operative societies, as such societies do not make profits, and cannot therefore make excess profits; and the imposition upon them of this tax has produced serious anomalies and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. This Congress, therefore, urges upon the Government the desirability of effecting such amendments to the Finance Acts as will remove from co-operative societies the intolerable burden of this tax.

Members of the Board would remember that only a few weeks ago the shareholders of the Wholesale Society practically unanimously passed a resolution in the terms, or in the sense of the terms, of the one which he had just read. He wanted to suggest that they would be behind the times if they went forward to Congress with a resolution of the kind submitted to them that morning. The movement was once in the frame of mind to accept this tax. He ventured to suggest that it was no longer in that frame of mind. Their contention was that co-operative societies were not making profits and did not make profits, and any statement to the contrary was simply libelling the co-operative movement. They should do their utmost to get the iniquitous tax removed.

Mr. J. T. DAVIS (South-Western Section) supported the amendment. They could not, of course, go back upon the past, but he held the opinion that a very serious blunder was made by those who represented the movement when the Excess Profits Duty was under consideration by the authorities. He thought everyone would admit that the incidence of this taxation was altogether a wrong one. The resolution in the report before them was a very meek and mild affair.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) thought they might make the resolution clearer and stronger by saying that co-operative societies should not be called upon to pay the tax in future. By so doing they would voice their indignation at co-operative societies being levied for the tax.

Mr. J. LUCAS (Scottish Section) thought they would not make their position stronger by using strong language. He supported the resolution.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) supported the Plymouth amendment. It was infinitely clearer than the resolution, and would appeal to the intelligence of the rank and file more readily.

Mr. J. M. WILKIE (Scottish Section) said they, in Scotland, were unanimously of the opinion that the resolution submitted by the Parliamentary Committee was not by any means strong enough. If they accepted the Excess Profits Duty lying down they did not know where they might be in the future

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) moved that the question be now put.

Mr. H. J. MAY asked if it was clearly understood that if the Plymouth amendment (a member of the Board: It is not the Plymouth amendment), Mr. May: Several members of the Board have referred to it as the Plymouth amendment. But what he wanted to know was this: if the amendment was passed would it go to Congress as an amendment to the Parliamentary Committee's resolution?

The CHAIRMAN said that he did not see that they had any alternative but to do so.

Mr. MAY said, that on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, he repudiated the amendment and could not accept it.

The CHAIRMAN then took the vote, with the following result:—

For the amendment	31 votes.
For the resolution	25 „

RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVELLING.

Mr. H. J. MAY drew attention to the fact that a Bill had just been introduced into Parliament giving the Government power to prohibit the travelling of large numbers of delegates to annual meetings of approved societies and other organisations.

JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) brought to mind the fact that at the Lancaster Congress a resolution was submitted on behalf of the Central Board expressing regret that the directors of the Wholesale Society contemplated withdrawing their representatives from the Joint Exhibitions Committee, and that the resolution was only allowed to be withdrawn on the statement made by the Wholesale Committee that the matter would be reconsidered. Since then the directors of the Wholesale Society had absolutely flouted—flouted was a strong word to use, but he thought it was the right word—the Central Board. He thought they should express their opinion of the attitude taken up by the Wholesale Society in regard to the Joint Exhibitions Committee and the promise made at the Lancaster Congress.

GLOUCESTER LIBEL CASE.

Mr. R. R. CHAPPELL (Western Section) expressed thanks to the Union for taking up the Gloucester libel case, and fighting it out. He also suggested a deletion in the report regarding the case, and the General Secretary promised that the matter should be attended to.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

The question of electing the late secretary of the Northern Section an honorary member of the Central Board was raised, but it was decided to leave the matter over until the Survey Committee had finished its

deliberations. To take action now would necessitate an alteration in the rules of the Union.

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION REPORT.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) drew attention to the fact that a member of Parliament was given credit in the North-Western Section report for having introduced the subject for discussion at a "Food Prices" conference, whereas it was a member of the Sectional Board. He suggested the report should be altered accordingly, and the General Secretary undertook to attend to the matter.

NATIONAL POLICY.

The United Board submitted proposals for carrying out a national policy and a national scheme of propaganda and advertising, and certain details were altered at the suggestion of sectional board representatives.

The report of the United Board was then adopted.

SURVEY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

It was suggested that the report of the Survey Committee to be submitted to Congress should be discussed at the Central Board meeting on Saturday, 26th May, and the suggestion was unanimously agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS FROM SOCIETIES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that several societies had sent in resolutions for submission to Congress, and sought instructions as to how they should be dealt with.

FUSION OF FORCES.

The first resolution was from Chesterfield, and it read as follows:—

That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Union to enter into negotiations with the Labour Party and trade unions with a view to joint Parliamentary action.

It was resolved that the Chesterfield Society be written to suggesting that, seeing the question of representation of co-operators in Parliament would come before Congress, they should withdraw the resolution.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. Hainsworth (Southern Section) and seconded by Mr. Douse (Midland Section), that the Rushden Society be informed that the Central Board could not see its way to place the following resolution on the agenda for Congress:—

That this Congress calls upon the Co-operative Union to endeavour to create public opinion, which shall make it impossible in the future for the Government of any nation to plunge its people into a deadly war. It would be pointed out that no system of armaments can accomplish this object. It can only be effected by the institution of an international freedom

of the seas, governed by an international assembly, constituted of delegates nominated by the several Governments of the civilised world, and whose spoken and written language shall be an international one, founded on and sanctioned by the authority of an international assembly itself. National navies shall be abolished, and the carrying of arms at sea by the ships of any nation shall be illegal, but the assembly shall create an international police to ensure justice, freedom, and the maintenance of the rights of nations.

Mr. Hainsworth was afraid that if the resolution was sent forward it would raise passion and storm which would not be to the credit of Congress at all. They were in this terrible war and they had got to go through it; and the only way to have peace was to smash those who broke it.

THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that the Eccles Industrial Society and the Co-operative Secretaries' Association had sent in the following resolutions bearing on the constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee :—

ECCLES SOCIETY :

That the Joint Parliamentary Committee consist of thirteen members, apportioned as follows :—Seven members to represent the Co-operative Union Ltd.; three members to represent the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited; two members to represent the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited; one member to represent the Co-operative Productive Federation. The members representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the Co-operative Productive Federation to be elected by their respective organisations. Of the seven members representing the Co-operative Union Limited, three shall be elected by and from the United Board, and four members shall be elected by the societies members of the Union. This Joint Parliamentary Committee to appoint their own chairman and secretary. Further, that the Office Committee make such arrangements as may be necessary for the carrying out of this resolution. The expenses of members of this committee to be borne proportionately by the organisations they represent.

SECRETARIES' ASSOCIATIONS :

That the time has arrived when, in the interests of the whole co-operative movement, the work of the Joint Parliamentary Committee should be carried on by a sub-committee appointed by the United Board of the Co-operative Union Limited from the elected members of the Union, together with represen-

tatives appointed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the Co-operative Productive Federation, with power to co-opt members of other organisations which are members of the Co-operative Union Limited, and which may be deemed able to render assistance. The sub-committee so constituted to be directly responsible to the United Board, and to report to them from time to time.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the Special Survey Committee were considering the constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and suggested that they should ask the Eccles Society and the Secretaries' Association to withdraw their resolutions until the report of the committee was issued. The suggestion was adopted.

GENERAL SURVEY REPORT.

Mr. J. MARKS (Western Section) moved the following resolution sent in by the Bristol Society:—

That the interim report of the Survey Committee, dealing with the constitution of the Co-operative Union, presented to the Co-operative Congress at Lancaster in 1916, and any further report dealing with the said constitution which may be presented to the 1917 Congress, should be referred back for a year for discussion by sections, districts, and societies.

A brief exchange of views took place between Mr. Marks, the platform, and Mr. Rae (chairman of the Special Survey Committee), and at the close Mr. Marks withdrew the resolution.

EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr. W. R. RAE, on behalf of the Central Education Committee, moved that the following resolution be adopted and placed on the agenda for Congress:—

That this Congress convinced of the important contribution which a satisfactory system of education can make to the welfare of the nation, and dissatisfied with the present scope and organisation of education in the United Kingdom, demands a reorganisation of education on lines that will facilitate the fuller development of the childhood, manhood, and womanhood of the nation; and in particular insists that the present half-time system be abolished, and all exemptions below the age of fourteen discontinued; that at the close of the war the leaving age be raised to fifteen, with maintenance grants provided where necessary; that continued education be compulsory up to the age of eighteen (free from specialised craft education); and that the Government take such steps as are necessary to enable qualified candidates to pass to the Universities unhindered by considerations of expense.

He said the resolution contained no departure from opinions expressed by co-operators in Congress and conference on educational matters, but simply gathered those views together and presented them in a concise form. Whilst they as co-operators objected to a boy of fourteen years of age being considered to have given an indication of his future so that one could decide for him what line of life he was to occupy, they did not mean that continued education between the ages fourteen and eighteen should be devoid of the broad bases of technical education which was common to all crafts.

Mr. LUCAS (Scottish Section) suggested that in regard to compulsory continued education the age should be sixteen and not eighteen as stated in the resolution. That was the line they drew in Scotland, where general training went alongside general training. He also regretted that there was no reference in the resolution to the position of the teacher. After all the future of education depended upon the teacher, and unless they were prepared to make the position of the teacher a great deal better than what it had been then they would get no improvement whatever in their system of education.

Mr. W. R. RAE said that at the Lancaster Congress they took up a firm position in regard to compulsory education, and said it should be continued up to the age of eighteen. "Do not let us go back on that," he suggested. So far as the status of teachers was concerned, he said he agreed there was room for improvement, but he did not refer to it because he did not want the members of the Central Board to think he was blowing his own trumpet.

Eventually the resolution was adopted, but it was suggested that before placing it on the agenda for Congress the Central Education Committee should consider the question of amending it in the light of Mr. Lucas' remarks.

CONGRESS MATTERS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said he thought the co-operators of this country, through their delegates at Congress, would be glad of an opportunity to congratulate the co-operators of Russia on their emancipation, and expressing best wishes for the future success of the movement in that country.

The suggestion was unanimously agreed to, and the General Secretary instructed to draft a resolution for submission to Congress on the lines of his remarks.

Mr. MAY wondered whether the Central Board felt inclined to invite the representatives of Russia who were in London to be present at Congress.

That suggestion was also unanimously approved.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY stated that the Reception Committee would be meeting on the following Saturday, and asked whether the Central Board would like to send forward an expression of opinion regarding the luncheon this year, in view of the instructions issued by the Food Controller.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) moved that the luncheon be dispensed with this year.

Mr. W. H. BRYANT (Western Section) thought disappointment would be caused if the luncheon was dispensed with. There would be a good many people in Swansea at Whit-week, and if delegates had to go about searching for something to eat, he was afraid they would be put to a good deal of inconvenience. He thought they would be able to give delegates a lunch, and yet observe the instructions issued by the Food Controller. He suggested that the matter should be left in the hands of the Reception Committee, and this was agreed to.

MEETING OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES AT CONGRESS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that the United Board had agreed to the suggestion that district representatives attending Congress should be invited to meet together for the purpose of helping one another in their work, but he was wondering whether it would not be advisable to delay putting the idea into operation until next year, when they might hope to have more district representatives present at Congress.

Mrs. GASSON (Southern Section) moved a resolution in favour of the meeting of district representatives being postponed until next year's Congress, and it was unanimously agreed to.





PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, 26th MAY, 1917.

The Central Board met at the Cameron Hotel, Swansea, on Saturday morning, 26th May, and discussed several matters which would be brought before Congress the following week. Mr. D. Evans (chairman of the United Board) presided, and he was supported by the General Secretary of the Co-operative Union (Mr. A. Whitehead) and the Assistant Secretary (Mr. T. Horrocks). The following members of the Board were present :—

IRISH SECTION.

Messrs. R. Fleming (secretary), J. Palmer, and W. J. M'Guffin.

MIDLAND SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bastard, J. Butcher, S. Butler, W. J. Douse, G. Harris, A. H. Jones, J. Langley, W. Millerchip, J. Millington, J. G. Shacklock, and C. A. W. Saxton.

NORTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bedford, J. Davison, S. Galbraith, M.P., J. Murdoch, and W. R. Rae.

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. E. Booth, W. Dewhurst, S. Fairbrother, S. R. Foster, G. Goodenough, J. Greenwood, W. Gregory, J. W. Hargreaves, F. Hayward, F. Houghton, S. C. Hughes, J. Johnston, G. Major, J. Morrell, J. Pollitt, T. Redfearn, W. Swindlehurst, J. Thompson, T. Way, B. Woolfenden, and J. Bradshaw (secretary); also H. Stuttard (hon. member).

SCOTTISH SECTION.

Messrs. G. Bisset, J. Deans, P. Loney, J. Patterson, A. Purdie, and G. Wilson

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. H. Brown, M. H. Clear, S. Foulger, Mrs. M. A. Gasson, Messrs. A. Hainsworth, E. King, R. Rowsell, W. J. Salmon, and B. Williams (secretary); also Messrs. E. O. Greening and H. J. May (hon. members).

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. R. Andrews, J. T. Davis, J. Marks, R. Pearce, Rev. G. A. Ramsay, and W. H. Watkins: also R. R. Pryne (hon. member).

WESTERN SECTION.

Messrs. W. H. Bryant, R. R. Chappell, J. P. Davies, D. Evans, D. Williams, and E. R. Wood.

Also the General and Assistant Secretaries.

The GENERAL SECRETARY read a telegram from Mr. Charter (Southern Section) expressing regret that he would not be able to attend the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then said he desired to extend to the members of the Board a most hearty welcome to South Wales. He hoped they were all comfortably housed and would be treated well. He also hoped they would have fine weather. He felt certain that the Swansea Congress would be a memorable one and he trusted it would be the means of stimulating co-operation in that district. He would like to impress upon the members of the Board, who had come from other sections, the important area they had there for development. He was looking forward to co-operation taking a more prominent place in South Wales than it had done in the past, because he realised that the co-operative movement was one of the soundest, one of the most moderate, and one of the most powerful influences at work in the community for the upliftment of the people.

THE TROUBLE AT TAIBACH.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member Southern Section) asked the chairman if he had on his agenda an item referring to the Taibach and Port Talbot Society.

The GENERAL SECRETARY suggested that Mr. Greening was out of order. If the Taibach and Port Talbot Society would not notify the Sectional Board or the Central Office of its troubles, how was it possible for the Union to help it?

GRANTS TO THE GUILDS.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section), on behalf of the Scottish Sectional Board, moved that the grant to the Scottish Women's Guild be increased from £150 to £175. He did not think it was necessary to weary a meeting of that kind with a long speech, because he felt they were all agreed that

the women in Scotland and in the kingdom generally were doing "splendid service to our cause." That was the main reason why he moved an increase in the grant to the Scottish Guild.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said that he had received a letter from the Irish Women's Guild thanking the Central Board for its kindness in the past, and asking if it could see its way to increase its grant to the guild this year. The secretary of the guild gave as reasons for the suggested increase the opening of new branches and heavier railway fares.

Mr. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) moved that the grant to the Irish Guild be increased from £30 to £50.

QUESTION OF GRANT TO THE ENGLISH GUILD.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) said she would like to ask, without reference to the past policy or the future policy of the English Women's Guild, if the Board could see its way to come to the rescue of the guild by giving it a present or donation. The guild had found it necessary to curtail its work, and the principal reason for that was the lack of money. The members of the guild had done what they could themselves, but they had been compelled to appeal to societies for financial assistance. The societies had gladly helped the guild: at the same time they had asked why should they be invited to contribute to the guild when they contributed to the Union? They (the Co-operative Union) had a new policy and a new propaganda scheme coming on, and it was quite certain, to carry out their plans successfully, they would want the assistance of the women.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) supported the views of Mrs. Gasson. The educational work of the guild for the last two or three years, whilst perhaps not exactly on the same lines as their own, had been so successful and so valuable that it was worth more than any grant of £200.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that they should deal with the resolutions regarding donations to the Scottish Guild and the Irish Guild first, and leave the question of grant to the English Guild over for a minute or two.

The suggestion was agreed to, and without further discussion it was decided to increase the grant to the Scottish Guild from £150 to £175 and the grant to the Irish Guild from £30 to £50.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) asked whether it had not been a necessary condition in the past for all organisations seeking assistance to make official application? If not, they were going to open the door for any particular member of the Central Board who was interested in any particular organisation to "spring" on the Board a suggestion that a donation be given to that particular organisation. That was why he thought they should have an official application from any body which wanted the assistance of the Central Board.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section): What is the constitutional position with regard to the application of the guild? Proceeding, he said he endorsed the sentiments expressed by Mr. Goodenough, that applica-

tions should come officially from all organisations, and be considered in all their bearings, as had been the case in the past. He regretted the attitude the guild had taken up towards the Union, and said if the guild thought they had a grievance they knew their remedy. A grant of £200 was nothing to what the guild were entitled to for the work they were doing. The guild also knew they could have the grant on the same terms and conditions as the other guilds obtained their grants. Why should they (the Central Board) make a concession at the present time and climb down from the attitude they took up a few years ago, which was purely a constitutional one? He was of opinion that the responsibility for not receiving the grant rested with the officials of the guild, and unless they were prepared to make the usual application he did not think the Central Board should make any grant whatever.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) asked the Board to take a more generous view of the situation. He quite endorsed the position they had taken up in the past, but in view of the times they were passing through and the fact that the work of the guild, which was largely educational work, was being injured through lack of adequate funds, he thought they might refrain from considering the matter as a strictly constitutional one. A more generous view might be the first step towards healing the breach.

The CHAIRMAN said the matter was discussed at the last Central Board meeting. He did not feel satisfied that they were perfectly in order in considering it again that morning. Evidently it was a constitutional question, and it appeared to be only a waste of time to discuss it.

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the question was discussed at the previous meeting of the Central Board, on a recommendation from one society that the Union should make its usual grant to the guild, and it was decided that the society should be informed that if the guild made their application in the customary manner it would be considered. He suggested that they were out of order in discussing the matter that morning, as they had not received any formal application from the guild for a grant.

Mrs. GASSON said she understood that the decision of the Central Board at the previous meeting was that the guild should make application for the renewal of its grant. Might she say that no notice had been sent to—

Several Members of the Board: Why should it be?

The GENERAL SECRETARY said they had had no communication from the guild regarding the grant. His instructions at the previous meeting were to convey to the society which had sent in the recommendation the decision of the Board, and that was done.

Mr. R. R. CHAPPELL (Western Section): Granting that a resolution was sent in before Tuesday's meeting, would it be in order then?

Several Members of the Board: No, no.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that the Joint Parliamentary Com-

mittee desired to alter their resolution on Parliamentary representation; they wanted the opening sentence to read "in the opinion of this Congress," instead of "in the opinion of this Joint Parliamentary Committee." The Standing Orders Committee considered the matter the previous night, and they suggested that the Central Board should grant the Parliamentary Committee permission to so amend the resolution.

Mr. A. PURDIE moved accordingly, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that the Wholesale Society, Insurance Society, and four distributive societies had sent in the following amendment to the resolution forwarded by 104 societies, regarding Parliamentary representation:—

That before the co-operative movement is pledged to direct representation of co-operators in Parliament the Co-operative Union issue a circular to societies, members of the Union, asking them to state:—(1) Whether they are in favour of this; (2) or against; (3) and if they are prepared to contribute to the funds necessary to carry this proposal into effect; the voting to be taken in accordance with the provision laid down in the rules of the Union (number 18), and the result reported to the next Congress.

The Standing Orders Committee (proceeded the General Secretary) had decided to treat the amendment as a motion for adjournment. It would be taken immediately after the Parliamentary Committee's resolution at Congress, and, if adopted, the whole matter would be remitted to societies without further discussion.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) said societies had discussed the question, and had given their delegates instructions how to vote. He thought they should take the opinion of Congress on the subject, and not endeavour to apply the closure.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) said the amendment naturally came forward as a motion for adjournment. They had to deal with the matter as it came to their hands.

Mr. H. J. MAY (hon. member, Southern Section) asked whether the decisions of the Standing Orders Committee were open to review by that meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said in his opinion the whole thing was out of order. He did not think the Central Board could alter the decisions of the Standing Orders Committee. It would not do for the Standing Orders Committee to be on one platform and the whole of the Central Board on another.

Mr. A. HAINSWORTH (Southern Section) said he believed they would disgrace themselves in the eyes of their societies unless they made arrangements for the whole of the question to be discussed at Congress.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY said he thought the second clause of Rule

23 of the Rules of the Union covered the point. He thereupon read the clause, which was as follows :—

II. (a) *A Standing Orders Committee* shall be appointed by or in such manner as the United Board directs from time to time, which shall regulate all matters requiring decision connected with the Congress proceedings. The committee shall meet at such time before the Congress as the United Board may fix, and shall keep minutes of their proceedings.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Irish Section) suggested that the Standing Orders Committee should reconsider their decision. He did not think the amendment could be considered a motion for adjournment.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said that in view of various statements they had heard from time to time it would be interesting to know what portion of the Joint Parliamentary Committee was now behind the committee's resolution. The directors of the Wholesale Society, for instance, had expressed disapproval of the resolution.

Mr. H. J. MAY (hon. member, Southern Section), speaking as the secretary of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, said there was no ambiguity about the position of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. If the votes of the committee were taken to-day there would be a very considerable majority in favour of the resolution. Obviously it would be useless for him to suggest that the voting would be unanimous, but he could say that the resolution had not been carried by a bare majority. This particular proposal sent in by the Wholesale Society reflected what he considered—and it bore on the point raised by Mr. Rae—the tactics adopted by the Wholesale Society in this and many other matters during the past year. Proceeding, he said the methods adopted by the Wholesale Society were those which did not commend themselves to men with comradeship between them; they should not be practised by enemies, let alone by friends.

It was finally decided that the matter be remitted to the Standing Orders Committee for further consideration.

REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY announced that the Joint Parliamentary Committee had decided to include in their resolution regarding co-operative representation on Government Committees, &c., the following resolution on the lines of that sent in by the Warrington Society :—

By the inclusion of representatives of local co-operative societies on any local Food Control Committee, which may be set up, or authorised by the Government to assist in the administration of any system of rationing or food distribution that may be put into operation.

The Warrington resolution would, therefore, be brought before Congress as paragraph (c) in the Parliamentary Committee's resolution.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

The GENERAL SECRETARY drew attention to the resolution passed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee regarding the Excess Profits Duty, and reminded the Board of the amendment thereto passed at the previous meeting.

Mr. H. J. MAY (hon. member, Southern Section) reported the steps taken by the Joint Parliamentary Committee to protect the interests of co-operators in the House of Commons as they were affected by the Excess Profits Duty and the threatened assessment of co-operative dividends for income tax purposes, but he did not wish, for reasons which he thought would readily occur to them, to go into details that morning. He then asked if the Board could not see its way to drop its amendment to the resolution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and let the resolution go forward to Congress as expressing the official position. He thought it would be to the advantage of the movement for such a course to be adopted.

Mr. J. T. DAVIS (South-Western Section) expressed the hope that the Board would stand by its previous decision. He was sure no one was going to charge the Parliamentary Committee with any dereliction of duty that morning. They were all fallible men, but the opinion of the movement, which was reflected in the resolutions passed quite recently by the quarterly meetings of the Wholesale Society, seemed to be that in regard to the excess profits question an error of judgment had been made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. He could see no harm coming to the movement from a free and frank discussion on this question. They had intimated to the movement generally that there would be a discussion on the subject at Congress and that they, as a Central Board, were preparing to move an amendment to the Parliamentary Committee's resolution. Were societies now to discover that they were not going to proceed with their amendment it would seem as if they had committed a somersault that morning. He thought there would be sufficient good sense in Congress to see that the discussion was conducted in such a way as to reflect the considered opinion of the movement, as well as the intelligence of the movement. They would then be able to prove that the co-operative public was not a sleeping public on this matter: that, on the contrary, it was very much awake. He hoped therefore the meeting would not accept the suggestion made by Mr. May.

The CHAIRMAN: The Central Board had decreed that it should present an amendment to the resolution to be moved by the Parliamentary Committee at Congress. Is it to our advantage to discuss the matter any longer this morning? We have the Survey Committee's report to consider.

Mr. W. GREGORY (North-Western Section) said he would like to make a suggestion. It was to the effect that the Parliamentary Committee should withdraw their resolution, which he described as "milk and watery," and support the proposal of the Central Board. They would be able to go before Congress as a united body.

Mr. A. PURDIE (Scottish Section) said he thought the Central Board

should have the courage of its convictions on this matter. They in Scotland were of the impression—and had been from the very beginning—that the Parliamentary Committee were intimidated on this question. They were entirely agreed as to what should be done, and they were not going to be a party to any watering down of the resolution coming from the Central Board in order to please the Parliamentary Committee, which appeared to be somewhat divided.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member, Southern Section) stated that he would like to suggest that whether the Parliamentary Committee's resolution or the resolution of the Central Board or both came before Congress the first paragraph should be left out entirely. He thought it would tend to prejudice the case against them if they suggested that the tax should be paid by somebody else and not by themselves.

The GENERAL SECRETARY expressed the view that a good deal of the co-operative case lay in the first paragraph. They said that where excess profits were being made they should be taxed. They themselves contended that they did not make profits, and that consequently they did not make excess profits. That was why they said the application of the tax to co-operative societies was not right.

It was agreed that the position should remain as it was, with the exception that, on the proposition of the Royal Arsenal Society, the word "unjust" should be substituted for "intolerable" in the Central Board amendment.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported that the Bookbinders' Co-operative Society Limited (London) had sent in the following amendment to the resolution forwarded by 104 co-operative societies. To delete the words after the first three lines of the proposed resolution, and substitute the following:—

Instructs the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to invite the assistance impartially of all friends of co-operation in Parliament, members of all political parties, to resist attempts to levy taxation on our societies for which there is clearly no equitable justification.

The same society had also forwarded the following amendment to the resolution sent in by the Birmingham Industrial Co-operative Society Limited. To delete the following words from clause 1:—"This Congress is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should secure direct representation in Parliament and on local administrative bodies," and substitute the following:—

This Congress instructs the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to invite the assistance impartially of all friends of co-operation in Parliament, members of all political parties, to resist attempts to levy taxation on our societies, attempts for which there is clearly no equitable justification.

Mr. H. J. May (hon. member, Southern Section) suggested that the

two amendments were quite superfluous, seeing that what they asked for was already being done.

The GENERAL SECRETARY reported the receipt of the following amendment from the York Equitable Industrial Society Limited to the resolution sent in by Birmingham Industrial Co-operative Society Limited :—

1. That in view of the persistent attacks and misrepresentations made by the opponents of the co-operative movement in Parliament, and on local administrative bodies, this Congress is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should secure direct representation in Parliament and on all local administrative bodies.
2. It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the above resolution, in conjunction with the trade union movement.

CONSTITUTION OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that he had informed the Eccles Society and the Co-operative Secretaries' Association that the subject matter of their resolution—the constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee—was being considered by the Survey Committee and a report would be presented to the next Congress. But neither the Eccles Society nor the Secretaries' Association could see its way to withdraw its resolution. He also stated that the York Society had sent in the following amendment to the resolution by the Co-operative Secretaries' Association :—

That the time has arrived when, in the interests of the whole co-operative movement, the work of the Joint Parliamentary Committee should be carried on by a sub-committee appointed by the United Board for the Co-operative Union Limited, from the elected members of the Union, together with representatives appointed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, with power to co-opt members of other organisations which may be deemed able to render assistance. The sub-committee so constituted to be directly responsible to the United Board, and to report to them from time to time.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) asked for permission to explain, though not officially, the position of the Eccles Society and also that of the Secretaries' Association. Their desire was that there should be a discussion on the constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee at Congress, in order that the Survey Committee might have some idea of the feelings of Congress on the matter. If the whole question was left over until the 1918 Congress it would come forward without the constituents of the Union having expressed their views as to whether there should be a change in the

constitution of the committee or not. He believed both bodies would be prepared to withdraw their resolutions after discussion at Congress.

Mr. H. J. MAY (Southern Section) pointed out that by the terms of the Eccles resolution they might get four members on the Parliamentary Committee who were not in touch with the Central Offices of the Co-operative Union.

“POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS.”

The GENERAL SECRETARY stated that he had received the following amendment from the Bookbinders' Co-operative Society Limited (London) to the resolution by the Chesterfield Co-operative Society Limited:—

That this Congress adheres to the decision of its predecessors to keep the co-operative movement clear of political complications which are calculated to impair its unity.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR RUSSIA.

Mr. HORROCKS (Assistant Secretary) reported that the Standing Orders Committee suggested that the following resolution should be moved at Congress:—

That this Congress of British co-operators, assembled at Swansea, representing over three-and-a-half million members, who, with their families, form more than one-fourth of the population of the United Kingdom, heartily congratulates the Russian nation on the achievement of its political liberty and of freedom for democratic government. It expresses the fervent hope that under the new conditions the progress and prosperity of Russia and its people may reach their fullest development; and it further expresses the hope that in the new democracy the Russian co-operative movement may take its part with other democratic organisations in contributing to the prosperity and welfare of the nation.

The suggestion was unanimously approved.

JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE.

Mr. HORROCKS (Assistant Secretary) stated that the Standing Orders Committee at a meeting held on the previous evening had under consideration the advisability of submitting to Congress a resolution on the Joint Exhibitions Committee's report and a further resolution dealing with the subject of a National Policy.

It was resolved that the Standing Orders Committee should prepare such resolutions and make arrangements for their submission to Congress.

It was also decided that the Standing Orders Committee should draw up and submit to Congress an emergency resolution dealing with food supplies and restrictions in food distribution.

SURVEY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section), speaking as the chairman of the General Survey Committee, said it would probably be a little helpful to the Central Board if he were to explain what the committee wanted him to do when their report came before Congress. It was to suggest that the report should be divided into two portions; one the educational work of of the movement and the other certain constitutional changes which the committee had in mind. He proposed to ask Congress not to mix the two, but to allow the constitutional changes to simmer in the minds of co-operators until the official report of the committee was presented in 1918. He was, however, most anxious—and so were the other members of the committee—that the other portions of the report, which contained valuable educational suggestions and advice, and which might assist on the constitutional changes should not be hindered but should be acted upon without undue delay.

Mrs. A. GASSON (Southern Section) said she was in a maze about the report of the Survey Committee. They were asked to discuss this portion of the report, but not that. Her idea was that the committee were not satisfied with what they had done, and in effect said to them "please do not discuss this report, because we are going to bring something better forward." She thought the Survey Committee should know their own minds.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said he was afraid Mrs. Gasson absolutely misunderstood the position. What he wanted to do was to avoid any obscurity about the matters. He was not asking the Central Board to accept the report because it would come before Congress whether they accepted it or not.

EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

The SURVEY COMMITTEE, in its report, recommended "the allocation for educational purposes of not less than 20 per cent of the subscriptions of societies affiliated to the Union."

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) suggested that they should not definitely fix a percentage. Some years they might want more, and in other years they might be able to do with less.

Mr. G. MAJOR (North-Western Section) said the committee was recommending the formation of a statistical department, and expressed the view that the statistics would be more valuable if there was a voice behind them. What he had in mind was a commercial adviser who would be able to give societies advice in times of trouble, thereby probably saving them from many mistakes.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said they believed they had the man Mr. Major had in mind in Professor Hall.

SUPPORT FOR COLLEGES.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) said she agreed with the com-

mentation' bestowed upon the Ruskin College and the Working Men's College (London), but pointed out that they were both for men.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) observed that many women were attending the Working Men's College, and his remarks were supported by Mr. Hainsworth (Southern Section), who said he represented the United Board on the governing council of the college.

"CO-OPERATIVE NEWS" AND "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR."

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) noticed from the report that the question of amalgamation of the Co-operative Newspaper Society and the Scottish Co-operator Newspaper Society had been considered by the committee. Had the matter been considered by the societies themselves?

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said the sub-committee had had a meeting with their friends across the border, and he was afraid he could not hold out much hope for an early amalgamation of the two newspaper societies. That was why he regretted the full committee did not adopt a suggestion made by the sub-committee to place an alternative scheme before the Congress.

CO-OPERATION AND AGRICULTURE.

Mr. R. R. PRYNNE (hon. member, South-Western Section) said he desired to emphasise the work of the co-operative agricultural movement and suggested the Survey Committee might usefully consider the relationship between the agricultural societies and the distributive societies. At the present time there was no line of demarcation, except an artificial one, between the work of the two sets of societies.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) ventured to suggest that Mr. Prynne was not quite in order. He was entering the trade section of the report, which it was proposed to ask Congress to leave over for twelve months.

Mr. PRYNNE, proceeding said overlapping and misunderstandings were arising between the agricultural societies and the industrial distributive societies, and he wanted the Survey Committee to consider the matter and see what could be done to bring about co-ordination between the organisations referred to.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section), speaking as a member of the Survey Committee, said the committee realised the danger which lay behind Mr. Prynne's remarks. The matter was under consideration, and recommendations would probably be made in the final report of the committee.

CO-OPERATIVE PERIODICALS.

Mr. G. GOODENOUGH (North-Western Section) drew attention to the crowd of new periodicals now appearing in co-operative circles, and said it would be better to find readers for the papers which were already in

existence. Multiplication of periodicals would, in his judgment, only tend to confusion. He also saw in the report a suggestion that the Newspaper Society should issue a monthly magazine for women, and suggested there should be a "fusion of forces" so far as papers for men and women were concerned. He sought "spiritual sustenance" from the Women's Corner of the *Co-operative News* as well as from other parts of the paper.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) protested against the idea of a separate magazine for women. They did not want to be disassociated from the male part of the movement in any way. They desired to stand shoulder to shoulder with the men, and work with them for the common object, viz., the spread of co-operation. The *Co-operative News* was quite sufficient for the women, and if any more magazines were published she questioned whether they would be read.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said only two new magazines had been brought out, and two magazines could scarcely be called a very large crowd. He was afraid he did not understand Mrs. Gasson's consistency. She seemed to be in favour of a women's college, but not in favour of a women's paper. She did not object to the "Women's Corner" of the *Co-operative News*, and yet the "Corner" after all was a women's paper bound up with the other. Women read newspapers and periodicals specially designed for women which had not any co-operative leanings or tendencies. They desired to provide them with the kind of literature that should have a co-operative atmosphere associated with it. He had no other desire than to regard the women as friends and sisters in the faith.

BOOKSELLING SOCIETIES.

Mr. W. H. BROWN (Southern Section) noticed that the Survey Committee recommended the formation of a bookselling society, and asked whether there would be any competition between it and distributive societies which had, or were likely to create, bookselling departments.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said that had Mr. Brown read the next paragraph in the report he would have known the view of the committee on the point he raised. It was to the effect that where societies were already doing the work the proposed bookselling society would not in any way compete with them.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (hon. member, Southern Section) said he was thoroughly in favour of a co-operative bookselling society, and asked why could not the Newspaper Society be made the medium for carrying out the ideas of the Survey Committee? (Mr. Rae: "I have no objection.") He would like to see a bookstall in every store.

Mr. T. WAY (North-Western Section) said a letter appeared in the *Co-operative News* some time ago, which was of great interest to him. It suggested the possibility of issuing through the Co-operative Union or some allied source books dealing with the Industrial Revolution in such a form as would provide data for their children in examinations.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) said they had in mind the providing of suitable books for children as part of their educational work of the future, but "for goodness sake do not give the young children industrial revolution."

BOARD FEES.

Subsequently the GENERAL SECRETARY introduced the question of increasing the fees of members of the Central Board attending Congress, on account of the increased cost of living. The fee per day was fixed by the rules of the Union, but they might get over the difficulty by increasing the number of days for which members of the Board would be paid for attending Congress.

The suggestion of the General Secretary was adopted. It was also decided that members of the Board should be allowed nine days' expenses instead of seven as at present.

The Chairman, before closing the meeting, thanked the members of the Board for the kindness shown to him during his term of office.

THE CONGRESS LUNCHEON.

On Saturday, May 26th, the complimentary luncheon to the members of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union and distinguished visitors to the Congress was held in the Cameron Hotel, High Street, Swansea, where a large party sat down to table with the members of the Reception Committee.

Mr. E. R. WOOD presided, and after grace had been said by the Rev. the Hon. Talbot Rice, an enjoyable repast was partaken of.

A telegram was read from Mr. John Williams, M.P. (Gower, Glamorgan-shire), who regretted that an important engagement prevented his being present, but who wished the Congress success. Apologies were also intimated from Sir Alfred Mond, M.P. (Swansea), Mr. T. J. Williams, M.P. (Swansea District), Mr. W. Llewellyn Williams, M.P. (Carmarthen District), Mr. Griffiths Thomas, Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas (Pontypridd), and Mr. W. Maxwell (president, International Co-operative Alliance).

The PRESIDENT welcomed the delegates and expressed the hope that they would have a happy time in Swansea. He afterwards submitted the loyal toast of "The King." In the course of his remarks he said that co-operators, the world over, were loyal and patriotic; but our Royal Family, happily, had had for generations a very warm place in the hearts and minds of the British people and it required few words to commend that toast to the delegates. The present King was a worthy descendant of a remarkable woman, Queen Victoria. It was an old saying that "If you want a good man you must start with his grandmother." That did not mean, of course, that they wanted a grandmotherly man. The present King owed much

to his grandmother and to his mother, Queen Alexandra. His constant attitude and efforts to further the interests of the empire were well-known.

The toast was loyally honoured, the guests rising to sing the National Anthem.

THE CIVIC AND COMMERCIAL PROSPERITY OF SWANSEA.

Mr. ROBERT STEWART, J.P. (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society), proposed the toast of "The Civic and Commercial Prosperity of Swansea." He said the toast would be sure to meet with a hearty response in that gathering. A Latin inscription in St. Paul's Cathedral said: "If you seek a monument, look around you." He would say to the visitors: If you would like to see the monuments to what had been accomplished by the civic and commercial—and he would add the industrial—classes in Swansea, look around you. It would give the delegates the greatest possible pleasure to explore and to learn from and learn about the romantic places that surrounded that old borough. They were told that Cromwell had been there and had left his mark on the place. They were also told that that place had been famous as a watering place over a hundred years ago. The civic authorities had done everything possible to maintain the dignity and usefulness of Swansea as a watering place. To add to the usefulness of the place as an industrial centre, the civic authorities and the commercial leaders had worked very well together. If they had not they could not have shown the same unity of purpose and could not have had the same progress to report. It was evident that they were not like the man and wife who had been blown up in an explosion in their house and of whom the neighbours said that that was the first time they had been seen going out together. The civic authorities had been a very progressive body. He believed they had four public parks there; and he was sure that the name of Mr. Thomas would remain as that of a pioneer of open places. He had lived before his time; but he had a vision which was to give the rising generation larger breathing space and better opportunities to become healthy citizens. In that respect the borough had done well. Speaking of the water supply he said that everybody was agreed that that was a good thing, especially in a place like that where so many people were prohibitionists. He commended the tramway system of Swansea; but he would like to give the hint "to the civic authorities that they must turn their eyes towards the system that ran to Mumbles, and he hoped that when the Congress next returned to Swansea there would be an improved system to take the delegates round that beautiful bay. The town was also looking after the educational interests of the young people and had set many examples. The men who had thought out those great works of the town, who had fitted out those great docks, and who had planned the manipulation of the raw materials, so rich in that district, and sending it out to different countries of the world, were men of no mean standing. The co-operators who were meeting there that day were not only acknowledging that these men had

done something to make the world a little better ; but they could bring their own great movement alongside and he could say that at that Congress would be a set of delegates who would compare favourably with these genteel people who visited Swansea as a health resort. The Mayor had only to look around and he would see, from the countenances and the dress and the behaviour of the delegates, that that great movement had accomplished something in ennobling and enriching the working people of the country through working together in a co-operative sense. The co-operative movement liked to lift up the whole people. The community legislated for the whole of the people and the poorest in Swansea benefited from the water supply as well as the rich. They gave the people the electric light and the tram and these conferred a boon on the people without class or creed distinction. Swansea was a leading town, not only in the tinplate and copper works, but it was one of the greatest towns in the Kingdom for its shipping and its dock accommodation. There were good associations between the workers and employers, and he was sure everybody wanted to see boards set up in all trades so that labour would show its respects to capital and capital would respect labour. He asked the visitors to drink to the civic and commercial prosperity of Swansea and with the toast he coupled the name of the Mayor who might be described as a handy man—and who was a man of good heart and generous impulse.

THE MAYOR'S REPLY.

The MAYOR—responding to the toast which was pledged with enthusiasm—said he wanted to make his position quite clear. If there was anything done wrong and if there was any difficulty in connection with the Corporation arrangements for the Congress, delegates were not to blame him but to blame Mr. David Williams. When Mr. Williams spoke to him about the Congress he said to Mr. Williams : “ You just consider yourself as if you were still Mayor of Swansea and do anything you like in my name.” If there was anything wrong, then, the delegates must blame Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams was a rank Socialist, but he (the Mayor) was a hard crusted old Tory. They said the nastiest things possible about one another ; and then when they both cooled down and thought it over they both confessed that they were fools. That was because they were both Welshmen. So he wanted the delegates to realise that David Williams was responsible if there were any defects in the arrangements in Swansea. He was pleased to know that the chairman was a Welshman. The chairman had said that Mr. Stewart was a Scotsman. He himself did not believe that till he heard Mr. Stewart talk, then he believed it. Mr. Max O'Rell had once visited the town and spent a Sunday there. He afterwards said it was a most miserable town and that the alternatives on Sunday were to stay in the hotel and get drunk or to go out and not get drunk at all. O'Rell had said that Scotsmen were the most wonderful people in the world. They regarded themselves as the owners of the world, in fact, they thought they had a bit of a mort-

gage on heaven as well. He wanted to tell his Scotch friend particularly that they in Swansea were going to make their Technical College the finest in the world. The generosity of the people of Swansea was great. They could get anything from the people of Swansea—if they convinced them that it was the right thing. They got between £70,000 and £80,000 in two weeks for the Technical College. They knew that the Scots people had succeeded all over the world. That was because there was a man named John Knox who provided Scotsmen with the best system of education; and it was a tribute to John Knox's educational system that Scotsmen occupied the best possible positions. The Mayor went on to describe men who had been observed on one of the big Canadian railways and who were paid big salaries for sitting and looking on to see that other people worked. These men were Scotsmen. It was because of their educational system that the Scots people occupied all the soft jobs in the world; but the Welshmen were going to compete with them for those jobs. Going on to speak of the co-operative society (Co-operative Wholesale Society) he said that Mr. Williams had been trying to persuade him that that society was a very great thing; that it had been spending ever so much money acquiring steamships and farms. But it had not brought any in Swansea although it was spending millions. There was not a director sufficiently awake to see the possibilities of Swansea. They had in Swansea a centre where every precious metal in the world was being handled. When the Australian Government did not know what to do with their concentrates of metals they sent their managers to Swansea to see if there was transport accommodation. Within a quarter of an hour they were able to report that the biggest transports in the world could go into Swansea. The works were there, too, ready to deal with these concentrates. They in Swansea were the only people in the world who had spelter works. The Swansea Vale Works, which used to be German, was now an Australian concern. He ventured to predict that there would be no town in the world that could grow so rapidly as Swansea, and there was a scheme on hand that would make the population of the borough double itself in five years. They would have the biggest town in Wales and the biggest town in the West of England. He was amazed that the co-operative directors had not foreseen this. He could not understand why they did not establish mills on their foreshore at Swansea where they could get land for next to nothing. He described the advantage of the Rhondda Valley which the directors had not considered. Yet Mr. Williams had told him that that mighty organisation was sagaciously controlled. He would not believe that till he saw rows of mills, clothing factories, and varied industries which could be made remunerative, extended there. That was the most western port in the country. It was the nearest to America—and the co-operative directors did not know of it because they did not look at the map. If he were a co-operator he would move a resolution instructing the directors to study geography and find out Swansea. He assured the delegates that the Swansea people were the

kindest and most hospitable people in the world. Cromwell had gone there and had gone out of it; the Royalists had gone there and had gone out of it. The Swansea people were conscientious objectors on both occasions—they would not fight. He hoped the delegates would have a right good time in Swansea.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

Mr. J. KELVIN WILLIAMS (National Union of Teachers) proposed the toast of "The Co-operative Movement." He was performing a duty that was to have been performed by Mr. Llewellyn Williams, M.P. The co-operative movement, he said, could not be regarded as other than a great human factor. It was worldwide in its ramifications and worldwide in its membership. Its annual trade was over 165 millions. It was the largest single flour producer in the world and the greatest distributive agency in the United Kingdom. He really wondered that the Mayor of Swansea, so accustomed to dealing with facts, should find these facts staring him in the face and yet fail to be convinced.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S CHAIRMAN RESPONDS TO THE TOAST.

Mr. THOS. KILLON (Co-operative Wholesale Society), who responded to the toast after it had been enthusiastically honoured, regretted that the Mayor had had to go away. It seemed that all men who got into prominent positions believe that the town they represented remained uncatered for. On the southern plain of India one of the leaders of the people thought that the Co-operative Wholesale Society had made the mistake of their lives in not going there instead of to Colombo. In Cork an Irishman had complained to him of the want of judgment displayed by the directors who did not recognise how close Ireland was to America. That Irishman thought that one of the blunders that only Englishmen could make. When he listened to the Mayor saying the same sort of thing he thought it must be epidemic. Speaking of co-operation he said the cause of those present, who were associated with it, was progressing. Individualism, as a principle, was absolutely dead. Whether the Co-operative Wholesale Society or the trust or the multiple firm had killed it he did not know; but individualism in trade was gone never to return. That being so the question was: Who are to be the producers and distributors of the country's requirements? He could not believe that any body of intelligent men or women would allow the trusts or multiple shops to dominate their requirements in any circumstances. There were two alternatives—this work would have to be done either by the co-operative movement or by the State. Unless the industrial and commercial life of the country were revolutionised he was going in for the State. Until we got the land and the mines and the transports, in a wider sense than we had the railways, we could not get the full economic value of our efforts. During the last few years the Co-operative

Wholesale Society had been inquiring about food products for the country ; they had got land, and all arrangements were made involving a cost of 1½ millions ; but when they got to dealing with the transport of the production they found that the vessels were booked up till 1926. That was what was going on between these trusts and combines the workers did not see, and that sort of thing must be broken down. It could be broken down only in one way, and unless there were unity, earnestness of purpose, and determination among the workers they could not succeed. He pointed to education as an essential remedy, and was glad to see Mr. Rae going in the proper direction. The "caste" of which so much was heard in India was just as clearly defined in this country between the aristocracy, the middle classes, and the workers ; and unless it became compulsory for children—duke's son and cook's son—to mix in the elementary schools, that caste spirit would continue to be created from birth, and would be carried through life. He thought the time had come when the young men should band themselves together, not be led by every will-o'-the-wisp, but think out their problems. If they did, great as the movement had been in the past, it would be nothing compared with the glory and grandeur of its future.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section), called upon to propose "International Co-operation," said he did not recall a more difficult task in all his experience. Things were not as they were. Many old friendships seemed to have been shipwrecked and there were memories that were more regrets than pleasantness. People could not agree that the excuse was to be found in the statement that a great people could, by the constant pressure of militarism, see kindness and humanity banished out of their lives, for we had seen another great nation rise and fling off the shackles of autocracy and leading a new way to true democracy. In that second great nation he saw great hope. They would all welcome there the three gentlemen from Russia. It was a matter of great regret that they would see their comrade Janson no more ; he was sleeping his last sleep at the bottom of the sea. Our hopes for Russia were the brighter and greater because she had shown how in England we might reorganise still on co-operative principles, because Russia had permitted her co-operative intelligence to affect her reorganisation. Russia was a fitting field for co-operative organisation. Her land system, when it had a chance, was almost commercial and the brotherhood which prompted the Russian to speak of the Czar as the "Little Father" was a grand foundation for the present order in Russia. Then, how we longed to be like France ! Her co-operative movement was hand in hand with the Government. In France the co-operative societies were trusted to do national work while here we knocked at the doors and begged to be permitted to do something to help our country. He was pleased that co-operation in France had been successful in that and he wished that we were successful. England and France were now indissolubly connected

for all time. France's aim was our aim and her hope ours. As it was in co-operation so might it be in nationality—that we might be a standing menace to anyone who would threaten the world's peace. There must be a sad strain in our thoughts because of broken Belgium. He recalled the wonderful bread society and the medical aid societies, and recalled how Socialism was permeating Belgium. Where were the men now who had been doing all this work? We could not tell. What was it all about? Why deeds that would disgrace the mediæval age? It was not enough to tell us that a nation in a frenzy had done wrong—what appalled us was that a highly cultivated nation had plotted for forty years a campaign for world domination. Yet we could hope for the restoration of internationalisation. He believed in an eternal principle working for right in all of us; he believed in humanity; and even in these dark days he believed there were bright days yet, and it was in the light of these beliefs that he hoped to find international co-operation on a finer platform than ever it occupied before.

Mr. MAY (Southern Section), on rising to reply, explained that the honour of replying devolved upon him, due to the absence of Mr. Maxwell (whose illness they all regretted) and the absence of Mr. Aneurin Williams and to the modesty of Mr. James Deans. He did not share the pessimism or the despondency of Mr. Rae with regard to international co-operation; but he did share to the full the hopes expressed for the future. So far as the schemes for the development and extension of the work of the International Co-operative Alliance were concerned, these were—as described by a Belgian friend—"resting." Its activity was stored away waiting the opportunity for development. "The main fact," he added, "is that we are making excellent progress." He claimed that in France, more than in any other country, the co-operative movement had emerged as a national force during the war in the administration of a country which otherwise had remained undisturbed in its method of government. He made that digression because of the power that co-operation had exercised in that work in Russia. In hundreds of villages in Russia what the revolution had brought about was that when the mayor and deputy mayor and other officials of the corporation had gone out into the street and joined the revolution the co-operative committee had gone in and had run the show. There was the same complete emergence of the co-operative movement as a national force. The Municipal Council of Petrograd included five members who were direct representatives of co-operation. Even in poor Belgium the co-operative movement was sustaining some of its activities and continuing its operations. Finland was taking a new lease of life; Serbia, which was in no less sorry a plight than Belgium, was demonstrating its connection with the co-operative movement. What else the Alliance had for encouragement in the future might be drawn from the British Empire. That was another direction in which the co-operative movement was developing, somewhat slowly. Whatever might be the ultimate position at the conclusion of the war, the

International Alliance would be larger and more powerful, the calls for international brotherhood would be greater and stronger, and the possibilities of the future greater than ever before. If the British people were out for one thing more than another it was to secure that liberty and freedom and opportunity of development; and he felt that, if those still living among us were of good will and pure purpose, difficulties that still appeared would disappear and a way would be found to link up the world in the co-operative movement and so achieve some of the progress to which Mr. Killon had referred.

THE PRESS.

Mr. J. RHYS DAVIES, in proposing "The Press," said that the time had fully arrived when the co-operative movement ought to have a daily newspaper devoted to its aims. He hoped the chairman of the Education Committee would take the lines of the Co-operative Press Agency and produce a newspaper which would teach the people of England. We wanted this co-operative leaven introduced into the press at the present time. If we could introduce that leaven into the daily press it would provide a paper for the intellect of the nation.

Mr. W. H. BROWN (Southern Section), in replying, urged the need for the co-operative organisation of the press and that, he submitted, must be done by the movement training its own journalists.

THE CHAIRMAN.

Mr. G. BASTARD (Midland Section), who proposed "The Chairman," said it was delightful to find a working man holding the highest position in the gift of the movement, and Mr. Wood would be holding that position on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The chairman had done wonderfully well that afternoon, although, he claimed, the company had not been a troublesome party.

The toast was duly honoured and the proceedings closed.

THE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Following the luncheon the big educational gathering was held in the Albert Hall, which was well filled for the occasion. Mr. Amos Mann (Leicester) occupied the chair in the temporary absence of Mr. Rae (chairman of the Central Education Committee) who was detained at the after-luncheon proceedings and he was supported by Professor Hall, Adviser of Studies, and Mr. C. E. Wood (secretary, Central Education Committee).

Mr. MANN said: I have been asked to occupy the chair in the absence of Mr. Rae, who is down to perform a certain duty on the toast list following

the luncheon, and the speeches have occupied more time than was anticipated. I did not know I should have to occupy this position at all, and do not propose to say many words. I know we shall have an interesting conference, because it would not be possible to listen to Professor Hall without feeling inspired and without hearing something that will be profitable and helpful to all of us. He then called upon Mr. Hall to deliver his address.

"THE CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME."

In introducing the subject of my address this afternoon, said Professor HALL, I think it will be well to review the educational needs of our movement, and outline some of the broad principles which are being applied in the extended educational work of the movement as now foreshadowed.

THE NECESSITY FOR CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION.

In the first place, I need hardly remind you that education has always been recognised by the more thoughtful members of our movement as essential to the success of co-operation. Whilst there have been many enthusiasts whose advocacy of education has been a notable feature of co-operative activities, their number has usually been small, however, in relation to the membership of the movement as a whole. A somewhat larger number have given lip service to the cause of co-operative education; but it is true to say the mass of our members have taken little or no interest at all in co-operative educational work.

In the past, this apathy and indifference have been lamented; but it is doubtful if our members or many of our leaders have ever fully realised what lack of interest in education means to the movement as a whole. When there arise vital issues, such as the proposal to impose income tax upon the trading activities of our societies, we feel how difficult it is to move an apathetic and indifferent membership, and how serious is the lack of interest in educational work. The present situation has made us realise, more than ever before, that our educational work is not something separate and apart from other sections of co-operative activity, but a section closely related to all other sections of our work.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION MUST BE PRACTICAL.

In framing plans for future educational developments the necessity of linking up our educational work with the underlying principles of our trading activities and with our trading and social problems has been kept in view. In the past, our class work has been largely concentrated upon the history and principles of co-operation. Because of this it has been criticised as being too theoretical. Taking a deeper view, however, we realise that this was but a step in the evolution of our educational scheme, for a fairly widespread knowledge of the history and principles of the movement was essential before there could be built up a programme of more practical and more advanced work.

CO-ORDINATION FOR EDUCATIONAL WORK.

It is not my purpose this afternoon to deal with the report of the Survey Committee; but I think one should point out that if the recommendations of the Survey Committee are accepted, the future constitution of the education committees of our societies will do something to link up those directly administering educational work with those administering trading to societies. The management committees and the educational committees in the past have been too far apart; but they must work together if real success is to be attained, for their object is one. They are really co-workers in a common cause. Without an alert, loyal, intelligent, and instructed membership the management of a society must necessarily be more difficult and less progressive and the success of the society will be much less secure. On the other hand, an educational committee carrying on its schemes without regard to the general activities of the society must necessarily appear to be too much in the air. What is required is a recognition of the common aim of the two committees and the sphere of activity for each of them. Moreover, it is desirable to bring into close connection all the educational forces of a society: and this the Survey Committee propose to do in the model constitution which they have suggested for educational committees of retail distributive societies. A similar idea underlies a proposed constitution which the Survey Committee have submitted for sectional educational associations.

THREE IMMEDIATE NECESSITIES.

When I surveyed our educational work after my appointment, the threefold nature of the work first to be done appeared to me as follows:—

(1) ENLARGED CURRICULUM.

In the first place, it seemed desirable that we should consider the whole of the curriculum which the Union should provide for students.

(2) ORGANISATION OF CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATIONALISTS.

In the second place, it seemed desirable that steps should be taken to bring into closer touch with the headquarters of the movement all our students, teachers, and others interested in educational work, for there is a regrettable loss of students and others, because we have not had adequate facilities for linking them up with the centre of the Union's educational activities. This difficulty it is hoped to surmount by the formation of the Co-operators' Educational League, which it is hoped will secure the membership and support of all those persons in the movement who really care for education, and wish to make the educational work of the movement more successful.

(3) AN EDUCATIONAL MAGAZINE.

In the third place, it seemed desirable that we should have some special magazine that could be utilised for keeping our teachers, students, and others

in touch with the Educational Department of the Union, and with the various educational activities proceeding throughout the movement. This need, it is hoped, will be met by the establishment of the *Co-operative Educator*. Though but recently established, this magazine has been well received and promises to be very successful as a connecting link between the Educational Department of the Union and individual members of the movement, as a disseminator of ideas and information, and as a strengthener and co-ordinator of educational effort.

OTHER NEEDS.

In addition, there were other special matters which invited attention, these included special provisions for junior students and women students and the organisation of our library, slide department, and statistical department. All these and many other important matters are being kept in view in the development of our educational work.

THE NEW CURRICULUM.

The new curriculum, as outlined in the forthcoming Educational Programme, will show a considerable increase in the number of subjects in which instruction will be offered and classes organised; and there will be some modification in existing subjects.

(a) CO-OPERATION.

The main subject will, of course, be "Co-operation." In the Junior Section there will be at present little or no change in the classes taking "Our Story." As hitherto, these classes will be described as junior classes and will be found in three sections. Section I. will deal with the first part of "Our Story"; Section II. will study the second part of the book; and Section III. will study the whole book.

For the young people who have gone through "Our Story," there will be an intermediate stage; and the lessons for this intermediate stage will be based upon the new text book which is now in the hands of the printers and will be ready for the next session. For students of intermediate standard there will also be an alternative or additional course. This will be a biographical course, and the text book for it will be "Lives of Great Men," as hitherto.

For senior students of "Co-operation" syllabuses of instruction in three stages will be offered. The first stage will take as text book the new book on "Co-operation," which is being prepared by Miss Madams and to which I have already referred. This book will thus be employed for both intermediate classes and Stage I. senior classes; but the students in the first stage for seniors will naturally be expected, at the examination, to show a fuller knowledge of the subject treated in the book than those in the intermediate classes. The second stage classes in the Senior Grade, will take as text book "Industrial Co-operation," and will cover about

three-fourths of the text book. The third, or advanced, stage students will take the whole of the text book and will be expected to know more about current co-operative topics than is at present expected of students in the advanced stage. In the past, many students have taken the examination in the advanced course in their first year; but with the widening field of co-operative activities the advanced certificate granted on the old syllabus has come to represent an inadequate knowledge. In the future, therefore, it is more than likely that all students, with few exceptions, will attend for a session in a class in Stage II. before passing to a Stage III. class.

(b) ECONOMICS OF CO-OPERATION.

England, Scotland, and Ireland.

During the past few years, an increasing number of students have taken the new course in "Economics of Co-operation." Hitherto, this course has been a correspondence course only; but the successful organisation of reading circles during last session for the study of this subject justifies the hope that the time has now arrived when local societies might form oral classes for the same purpose. At present, however, there is no one text book available covering the whole of the ground, though the Education Department of the Union is prepared to supply the teacher of the class with comprehensive notes of lessons. A text book is, however, in preparation; but pending its completion there is no reason why societies should not form classes in this subject under a competent teacher. The course is divided into two parts, and in the light of past experience the programme of instruction has been revised.

(c) HONOURS COURSE IN CO-OPERATION.

It is proposed, also, to establish an Honours Course in Co-operation. In this course there will be brought into focus the main essentials of the various courses now arranged by the Union. It is proposed, also, to grant an Honours Certificate or Diploma in Co-operation to students who satisfy the following conditions:—

The students must hold—

- (1) The Stage III. Senior Certificate in Co-operation (or advanced examination of the old scheme);
- (2) A certificate in both parts of the examination in Economics of Co-operation;
- (3) The advanced certificate on the complete course of Economics;
- (4) The advanced certificate on the complete course of Industrial History;
- (5) Advanced certificate in the course on Citizenship;
- (6) The certificate for one or other of the special co-operative courses mentioned herein;

and in addition, must

- (7) Prepare an essay or thesis on some approved co-operative subject;

- (8) Pass an honours examination which will test their knowledge of Industrial History, Economics, Citizenship, Co-operation, and Co-operative Law and Administration.

It will not be a simple matter to secure the Honours Diploma. It will be open to every co-operator whether they be attending the classes or not; but a student who works diligently for two or three years should have no difficulty in securing it, and it is believed that the arrangement of a special course and the granting of a special diploma will give direction to students' work; and, as the need for qualified teachers increases, provides an indication of a person's interests in study, industry, and some other qualifications.

(d) SPECIAL CO-OPERATIVE SUBJECTS.

The new Programme will include special Co-operative Courses in—

Co-operative Finance. The question of finance is a very important one, and it is very essential we should have classes in this subject. Our financial responsibilities are so great, and the control of our members so great, that unless they are instructed in regard to co-operative finance we cannot expect to get the best results from the capital at our disposal.

Co-operative Agriculture.

Co-operative Problems.

Co-operation and Social Problems.

Co-operative Production.

Co-operative Statistics.

International Co-operation.

The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials.

It is not intended to offer instruction in all these subjects during the current session. That will be impossible in view of the immense preparation necessary in the way of providing outlines and text books; but some of them will be introduced each year until the whole list is covered, and it is thought that by indicating at this stage the proposed developments, students may be able to map out their courses for two or three years ahead.

(e) INDUSTRIAL HISTORY.

The Study of Industrial History is of immense importance to co-operators and to workers generally, for such a study gives the worker hope for the future. It enables him to avoid the mistakes of his predecessors and recognise the power of collective action. Greater attention will be paid to this subject than hitherto, and instead of the two stages in which instruction has previously been offered, it is proposed to substitute the following :—

A General Short Course 24 lessons.

A Complete Long Course 48 lessons, which may
be taken one or two
sessions as desired.

A Course on the Industrial Revolution 12 lessons.

A Course on the Economic and Industrial

History of the 19th Century 12 lessons.

A Course on the Reform Movements of the

19th Century 12 lessons.

(f) CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY.

It is also proposed to introduce into the history section a course on—
Constitutional History 20 lessons.

(g) ECONOMICS.

The Courses in Economics will also be reorganised, and there will be—

A Short Course in the Economics of Industry 20 or 24 lessons.

A Complete Course in three sections covering—

Economics of Industry 20 lessons.

Foreign Trade and Exchange 20 „

Money and Taxation 20 „

Each of these sections it will be possible to take separately by those students who desire so to do.

(h) SPECIAL COURSES IN ECONOMICS.

There will also be a number of special courses in Economics. The principal special course will be on—

“The Welfare of the Group.”

The object of this course will be to build up a new system of Economics based upon “The welfare of the Group” rather than the riches of the individual, the study of “what may be” as well as of “what is.” The ordinary course in Economics will be continued because of the importance of understanding the economic phenomena which surrounds us, but it is a great hope of the Central Education Committee that we may build up a theory of Co-operative Economics, and this course of study will, it is hoped, lead us on our way.

The special courses in Economics will also include—

Public Finance.

Economic Theories.

Economic and Social Problems.

Wages.

Money, Prices, and Banking.

Trade Unionism.

Organisation of Industry and Commerce.

The student will be able to take any of these special courses by itself.

(i) CITIZENSHIP.

The subject of Citizenship will also take a larger place in the new programme than in the old. There will be—

A General Course of about 20 lessons (ultimately to be developed into two courses).

There will also be courses of lessons on—

Local Government.

Political Science.

In addition, there will be the course on Public Finance, to which reference has already been made in the group of economic subjects

(j) SOCIOLOGY.

Recognising the value of a study of Sociology to Co-operators the new programme includes—

Sociology : A General Course of about 20 or 25 lessons.

(k) EDUCATION.

The programme will also include courses on various aspects of Educational History, Theory, and Practice.

Thus, there will be courses on—

The History, Theory, and Organisation of Education.

Co-operative Education and Its Organisation.

The Art of Teaching.

(l) PROPAGANDA AND PUBLIC SPEAKING.

There will also be courses on—

Propaganda and Methods of Organisation, and

Public Speaking.

(m) EMERGENCY CLASSES.

It is also intended to introduce from time to time, as may be necessary, classes that will be described as emergency classes. Under this heading it is proposed to introduce in the next programme a course of lessons on—

Income Tax.

After-War Problems.

(n) TECHNICAL COURSES AND BUSINESS SUBJECTS.

A very important part of the educational work yet to be reorganised is that of the Technical Courses. Little or no change is proposed at present in regard to existing courses, as it is thought better to develop first the changes in non-technical subjects which I have already outlined; but the whole of our scheme of Technical Education is under consideration with a view to revision at as early date as possible. This may mean some readjustment of the stages in Co-operative Bookkeeping, and some reconsideration of the syllabuses for the Co-operative Managers' and the Co-operative Secretaries' examinations.

Bearing upon the business subjects, special new courses are to be arranged for committees, officials, and other employes. Thus, it is proposed to introduce as soon as possible the following special new courses:—

A Course for Committees.

The Commodities of Commerce, their Sources, Preparation, and Markets.

The Organisation of Industry and Commerce.

The Economics of Business Organisation.
Modern Business Methods and Office Organisation.
Commercial Law.
Co-operative Law.
Money, Banking, and Prices (to which reference has already been made).
Propaganda and Methods of Organising.
Advertising.

REVIEW OF PROGRAMME.

It may be thought that this Programme is somewhat ambitious, but it seems desirable to look ahead and prepare a comprehensive programme, even though the various items of the programme may be taken up in our classes only gradually. It will, for example, be difficult to establish classes in some of the subjects mentioned until suitable text books are available, and these cannot be provided immediately, but the changes and developments will have to come.

WORK AMONG JUNIOR CO-OPERATORS.

Our work among juniors is also to be extended, and when our new programme has been properly launched developments of work among juniors in the way of classes and guilds will be immediately undertaken.

CLASSES FOR WOMEN.

Classes for women are also outlined in the Educational Programme and this work will also be developed.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.

A change that has already been made is the arrangement for Correspondence Classes to continue the whole year instead of being confined to the winter months as in the past. Students can commence their studies at any time and submit their lessons weekly, fortnightly, or at such intervals as may be convenient.

LANTERN SLIDES AND OTHER AIDS FOR CLASS WORK.

The committee, visualising the future class work, have had in mind the difficulties of the teacher in regard to equipment; and the Lantern Slide Department is being developed, whilst the hope is entertained of adding cinematograph films at a fairly early date. In addition, pictures and other illustrations for class work are being sought, the intention of the committee being to provide our teachers with suitable equipment or with information where such equipment can be obtained.

LIBRARY AND BOOK BOXES.

As a further aid to teachers and students, the library at Holyoake House is to be re-organised and increased. As part of the library scheme, arrange-

ments are to be made for issuing to societies and classes, boxes of books. These book boxes will enable our students to read and consult books which would otherwise be beyond their reach.

CO-OPERATIVE LITERATURE.

So far, I have been dealing principally with the class work ; but the future educational work of the movement requires a consideration of other matters as well. It is of great importance that wider publicity should be given to co-operative literature ; and particularly it is necessary that our text books and our educational magazines should have a wider circulation. The report of the Survey Committee indicates some of the text books which are likely to be issued in the near future.

THE CO-OPERATORS' EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE.

It is also of great importance that we should have a very strong Co-operators' Educational League that will enable us to link up all enthusiasts for education and provide that impelling power for the educational developments of which I have spoken. Given an Educational League with a large and interested membership, great changes may be realised in our educational work.

WEEK-END SCHOOLS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Another form of education which calls for notice is that of the week-end and summer schools. It is pleasing to record that several societies, groups of societies, and guilds have already arranged week-end schools ; and the Central Education Committee have recently organised a very successful week's school at Holyoake House. The committee, satisfied with the success of this school, will doubtless arrange others, both in Manchester and other centres. They are looking forward to a big development of schools of short duration ; and when the war is over and the educational staff of the Union is augmented, in accordance with plans already approved, it will be possible for the Education Department to go further in organising week-end and other schools of short duration and in developing the summer school movement. Educational associations, educational committees, and other bodies should also proceed with work of this kind.

CONCLUSION.

The developments I have foreshadowed indicate a long step forward, if they are successful. Needless to say, they do not exhaust our educational possibilities ; we are only on the fringe of an unexplored and undeveloped territory. Our vision must be ever widening. Experience, like new occasions, teaches new duties. Every step we take reveals new needs and new possibilities ; but if we are to realise these possibilities we must have men and women with a vision to guide our work, and they must be men and

women full of interest and enthusiasm, able to kindle the enthusiasm of others in their own district and determined to secure a constantly increasing number of interested co-operative educationalists. I want to emphasise the importance of our own point of view. The general trend is to stimulate our young people to educate in order to get on. We do not object to their getting on. But we do feel that it is a better thing to advocate education for the fuller development of the individual whether it gets the individual on or not. Boys and girls frequently get on by pushing others back. It is better to co-operate than to compete, and we should see that we get the best out of our co-operative life. To do this we must take a wider view of our co-operative responsibilities. It rests upon us to inculcate the importance of the lesson that it is better to co-operate than to compete if we are going to develop our co-operative life to its fullest extent.

THE DISCUSSION.

Mr. W. R. RAE, who had arrived whilst Professor Hall was delivering his address, opened the discussion. He said he wanted to apologise for being late. He had accepted a duty elsewhere which had detained him longer than he had expected, and he was reminded of the old saying "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." He proceeded to say how pleased he was with that great gathering and their interest in the new Educational Programme. They could hardly realise how pleasant all that was to him. It was marvellous to think of the interest taken in the question of co-operative education to-day. Fifteen or sixteen years ago the totality of education consisted in questions and answers, and the students were taught to learn them off and repeat them like parrots. After many years came a change of subjects, with something like fear and trembling. First three or four, and so on until to-day they had the giant services of Professor Hall with scheme upon scheme and course upon course, and a thousand subjects; and they were all sitting hopeful that some day they would all be able to take part in the work outlined in the address to which they had just listened. It was true they were only just touching upon the fringe of education which in its vastness could only be likened to the myriads of stars which hardly knew any finality. One subject developed into two, two into twenty and so on, so eager would they all be for knowledge and more knowledge. Knowledge was industrial salvation; ignorance was the cause of slavery. Co-operators could approach all their social problems in their own atmosphere and solve them to their own satisfaction. Education was a vital essential, an urgent necessity of life if life were to be developed in the direction of achieving that glorious democracy for which they were all striving.

Mr. D. WILSON (Paisley Equitable) desired to emphasise not what Professor Hall had put into his address, but rather what he had left out. He (the speaker) referred to the important question of industrial and technical education. A course on industrial history was all right in its place, but what use would it be in tackling problems, say in the factories or the

Co-operative Wholesale Society? It would be of no use whatever. He was of opinion that the solution of the industrial problem depended upon the success of commerce. To-day the great necessity was for technical education. To ask any boy to take up the curriculum outlined by Professor Hall was to ask him to sacrifice the whole of his interests to that of the co-operative movement. The first duty of any young man was to himself and those who were dependent upon him. He must learn a trade at which he would have to earn his living. What was wanted was a scheme of monetary grants to help the children to get a better general education, and a higher education. They wanted the State to provide better education for the children of the workers. To a lad who had not had that, secondary education was a waste of time, and would be of no value to him generally if he were going into the engineering trade. It was not everyone who had a taste for industrial history. They needed to keep the people interested in the co-operative and labour movements.

Mr. E. BRENNAN (Darlington): In my opinion Professor Hall has touched the root of the problem, and we must see to it that our children get a better national education. My complaint is that co-operators do not take enough interest in local matters. When the workers' children win a scholarship, as co-operators, we can see that grants are made to them to enable them to get to the University. The worker's child has as much right to rise on the educational ladder as any other person's child. Co-operators are going into Parliament, let us see to it they carry co-operative principles there, and let us put them on our local councils, who are interested in the workers' children, and not in the children of the upper ten.

Mr. F. IRELAND (Plymouth) said the speech of Professor Hall had been a splendid "send off." The scheme he had outlined was the finest instrument for developing the workers' children. We were living in times of great excitement; even the Government felt that education needed looking after, as well as the commercial magnates. They were told they could not hold their own unless they were masters of the different trades. That was all right in its way, but was our object to be efficient wealth producers? We were asked to subsidise the technical schools, so that they could manage commerce as competitive masters. But as co-operators we must educate ourselves so that we can become the controllers of the institutions of the country, economic, commercial, and political. Was it not time that co-operators claimed their rights on municipal bodies—legislating on co-operative lines? If co-operation was good for ourselves it was good for the town in which we lived, and we should work so that its influence would become the crowning edifice of the nation—a star that would never set, but would always illuminate the land.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York): Whether Parliament did its duty or not, we, at any rate, should do what we think to be right for the movement and right for co-operation, and let the rest take care of itself.

Mr. F. PERRIMAN (Southampton) complained that there seemed to be no outlet for those they were going to educate. There was a chance for all of them on the Wholesale Board if they would only educate themselves. The great object of Professor Hall was to educate the young folk. That scheme would be valuable for those who aspired to educational committee work, but the scheme should also take under its wing the young propagandist, who would go with the gospel into the highways and byways as others had gone with another gospel into the highways and byways. He believed a great deal of educational work had been done by men who had gained experience in other movements, and who had brought in co-operation as a practical experiment which had been tried by the workers to prove their ability to manage their own affairs. He emphasised the value of the scheme which would enable young men to go out to the general public certified as fit and proper persons to teach co-operation; such encouragement would be much appreciated by the young men; and the movement would be able to touch a much larger section of the general public than to-day.

Mr. P. MALCOLM (Kilmarnock) contrasted the educational system of Scotland with that of England. Professor Hall had not only asked too much but he had staggered us. The civic community had a right to give proper education and so give the citizens a better idea of the things incorporated in that programme. This should not be laid as a burden on the shoulders of the co-operative movement. He would like to say that every Scotsman was what the old school master called "a devil for education." They were making education a strong point in Scotland, and while their system was not everything that was desired, at the same time it had proved itself of great value to the community. He would like to see great changes, but the changes that Professor Hall asked them to take up were changes that should be taken up through the Government and the school boards. It should be so in England, too. Proceeding to criticise the programme, he said Professor Hall had given a tremendous amount of proposed lectures. To give all these lectures on such a number of subjects was going to weary the audiences—he was speaking from experience. He had taken up the lines laid down by the Co-operative Union at a class he had; and he found that when he began to labour a subject the interest began to wane. The desire of the Scotsman at present was to get a grip of the great discontent that was raging throughout the whole of democracy. To labour co-operation in its historical stages was really beating about the bush so far as effectual work was concerned. If they had to make audiences interested they would have to delve into the social and industrial history of the country, which could not be got in "Industrial Co-operation." Industrial history, constitutional history, and economics—they wanted these three things brought home to the audiences in fewer lessons in order that they might grasp the essentials and get a wider outlook on what we were driving at. If they did that it would be very much better. But there was another side to the question and the Congress would be going into it next week. This other

phase was as potent as our own, and he contended that we must get the really effective co-operative democracy to fuse in those "other forces" where fusion was possible. Much had been said about speakers. In Scotland they had been too respectable to go out to the street corners. The movement was only beginning to realise that it had a great amount of spare work to do. Lantern slides would be a great deal more effective than dry speeches. He believed that the literature could be improved. The best thing they had done yet was the *Producer*. The *Co-operative Educator* might catch on, but they should get more interesting articles into it. In Scotland they were all disunited so far as education was concerned, and he hoped that if that conference did nothing else, it would make educational committees in Scotland and England into one united body for the purpose of making our force felt as a great social and democratic movement.

Mr. J. S. GAMBLE (Glasgow Eastern) said he had been through the mill of co-operative administration, and he put forward a plea for greater simplicity in their educational work and effort. If they were going to achieve success, they would have to look at matters from a somewhat new standpoint. They needed that simpler form of education which he quite recognised was somewhat difficult to attain. Their education was hampered by the fact that it was looked upon as the sphere of those who had failed to attain success on the administrative side of the movement's requirements. It was a sort of consolation prize. He supported Mr. Hall in his plea for efficiency in co-operative administrative work. If they could secure that, it would enable them to create that co-operative atmosphere which was so essential. Far too much had been put before them. They needed a connecting link between their administrative and educational work.

Mr. McTAVISH was introduced as the general secretary of the W.E.A., but he said he would have preferred to have been introduced as an old co-operator. He congratulated the Chairman on the fact that, after many days, some of the bread he had cast upon the waters appeared to be returning to him. He also congratulated Professor Hall on his admirable speech and his scheme of educational reform. The part of the programme which appealed to him most was the course for educational committees on the organisation, theory, principles, and methods of education. He was convinced that there was no subject more important to the labour movement, and he wanted to state briefly why he thought so. The educational activities of the co-operative movement could be readily summarised under three heads:—

- (1) The training of the experts, whether they be managers or assistants, in the principles and methods of the movement.
- (2) The provisions of a liberal education for adult members in a co-operative atmosphere.
- (3) The development of the co-operative spirit—the development of the desire to co-operate.

He might describe the last desire as a natural desire: for the desire

to co-operate was just as natural and just as inherent as the desire to breathe. He did not wish to belittle the first two, but he believed that this third aim—the development of the desire to co-operate—was the most important of the three. Those present were part of a great movement with a membership of millions, but only a percentage—indeed, only a small percentage—were co-operators in the true sense of the term. That meant that on the business side the movement had been a gigantic success—our trade and membership and dividend proved that—but on the educational side the movement had not been so successful. Adult education would make the co-operator, man or woman, very intelligent ; it would widen the outlook and equip co-operators so as to render them able to give logical and reasonable reasons for the faith in them. But adult education would not make a man or woman a co-operator unless the desire to co-operate was already there. The desire to co-operate was not a matter of logical thinking, it was a matter of right feeling. It was concerned with the emotional life and therefore its foundation had to be laid in childhood and in adolescence. It was more especially in adolescent life that the emotional life bore its finest fruit, and it was in adolescent life that that spirit must be inculcated. The reason for the comparative failure of the development of this spirit was not to be traced to the co-operative movement so much as to the defects of the national system of education—with schools largely staffed with unqualified teachers, with the large classes, with the early leaving age, with the competitive examinations, all of which tended to weaken the natural desire to help one another. The fact was that there was no provision in the national system for the development of the emotional life. It was part of the tradition of the national system to be ashamed of the emotional life, and to try to suppress it. In the courses suggested by the Union there was to be one for the study of education itself as a process for the development of the emotional intellectual life. No work would pay the movement more than that. While we might multiply the stores and their membership as we could, the future of the movement was to be found in a true system of education for the children and adolescents in the elementary and secondary and part-time schools.

MR. J. NUGENT HARRIS (Agricultural Organisation Society) said that as agriculture was one of the subjects named by Professor Hall in his address, he would like to speak on the matter after 17 years experience, and to plead for an endeavour to be made to understand the people whom it was proposed to educate. In other words he pleaded for group psychology, for unless you got the atmosphere and the attitude of mind of the people whom you proposed to educate, the best results were never attained. The scheme as outlined was very comprehensive, and the different headings had been well marshalled, but he had been listening to hear for something said in regard to teaching the people a knowledge of food values. He wondered if the meeting was aware of the appalling output of food at the present time which was not fit for human consumption. Adulterators had a wide field for their machinations to-day. Foreign eggs were tainted and not fit for human

consumption. And he ventured to suggest that the industrial unrest might be attributed to the food question. He pleaded for correspondence classes to be started. They had lost the power of conveying lessons through the written word. But he knew of societies which had been brought into existence by letter writing, and by corresponding with farmers' wives dozens of societies might be started to-day.

Mrs. J. PENNY (Sheffield) said some people thought the subjects as outlined were not of interest to them. But she had served her apprenticeship at street corners, and yet she was a student. People in reform movements had their hands full it was true, but if they could have a text book to suit them it would be most useful. There would be nothing done unless they appealed to the woman with the basket. The world was thirsting for knowledge, and as they were now about to enter the political arena, enthusiasm would be attracted to the movement. It might prove a dangerous element, but it was up to them to make a new world. She admitted that to educate a man properly they had to start with his grandmother, and their movement was not run by the University type of man; but a great deal could be done through the co-operative atmosphere. She would rather trust her destiny to a working man, who had served the labour movement, than to one who held degrees and regarded the working man beneath him.

Mr. E. W. MUNDY (Bristol Printers) in proposing a vote of thanks to Professor Hall, said nothing had given him more pleasure than the new method Professor Hall had imparted into the movement—a real method of teaching. Those who had the pleasure of attending any of the summer schools could not go away without having felt that they had learnt what education really meant and what a teacher ought to be. Professor Hall had convinced him that nine-tenths of what had been given to him before as education was wrong. To see Professor Hall with his class was a real education which no one could experience without being inspired to do something himself. He had had the great pleasure of being present at the last conference of the Workers' Educational Association, and he wished now to suggest that one of the emergency lectures should deal with the Workers' Educational Association programme, which was one of the finest things that had come before the democracy of England for 50 years or more. Unless they had mass action behind the Worker's Educational Association to force the official hands so that they would study the programme and vote for it, they would not get it and they would miss one of the finest opportunities democracy had had.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Rae) seconded the vote of thanks formally, and put it to the meeting, when it was carried with enthusiasm.

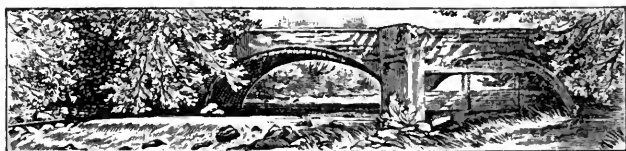
PROFESSOR HALL REPLIES.

PROFESSOR HALL, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said he wished to state publicly that the movement would never know what it owed to the Education Committee of the Union for the work it had done during

the last twelve or fourteen years. He had had special opportunities of recognising the work that had been done, and the movement would never know what it owed to Mr. Rae and his colleagues. In regard to the criticism that he had no message for the workers, and that technical instruction was necessary for success, Professor Hall said man did not live by bread alone. They recognised the importance of educating the people in their stores to be efficient, and he should have mentioned that the matter of technical instruction was under consideration. They wanted to educate the rank-and-file, and then they would get that atmosphere which would be favourable for technical instruction in the society. Public education, he recognised, was far from satisfactory. We could, as citizens, take an interest in public education, but nobody would undertake co-operative education but ourselves. That was why co-operative subjects were so much emphasised in that programme. He believed that if we stimulated the faith of the members in co-operative education, we would stimulate their faith in general education, and they would see that their children took advantage of educational facilities offered by the State. The most successful centre of the Workers' Educational Association was in Rochdale, and it was thought that the reason for that was that the people were stimulated by the work of the pioneers. We could not help the work of the movement nor help the work of the Workers' Educational Association without helping the work of education all over. But, after all, education must be something more than the making of a man into an efficient machine. It must embrace something wider and nobler; knowledge was not necessarily power. It was only power when it was linked up with useful work. The Union had been told it was leading from behind. Now it was blamed for looking too far ahead. Mr. Malcolm said the civic authorities should do more, but even if we get them to do more we have to remember that the atmosphere of the class was the thing that counted. He was glad Mr. Malcolm was willing to help; they would gladly welcome all the help they could get, and in England they were not conceited enough to think that they could not learn anything from Scotland. He agreed with Mr. Malcolm that we were only one phase of the social movement. One of the objects in view was to improve the literature of the movement and no person was worthy of the name of "social reformer" who did not believe that everything could be improved. Proceeding, he said educational committees were as important as management committees; the formation of character was as important as the feeding of the stomach. The committee had tried to avoid overlapping with public authorities, and overlapping with other co-operative institutions and democratic institutions. We all wanted the public authorities to do their own work, but we knew that they would not do ours. They might introduce co-operation into their curriculum, but they would not make people co-operators. He would welcome the co-operation of Mr. Nugent Harris in bringing the work of the Education Committee into agricultural circles. As to food values, that was the work of the public authorities, but if these authorities neglected that duty, the

movement would have to step in and take their place. Replying to Mrs. Penny, he said we were going to see that the next generation had a better chance, and we were going to make the way easier for those who would come after us. The Union recognised, as Mrs. Penny did, that all the co-operative students were not to be found in the classes. Replying to Mr. Mundy, he explained that the first thing was to get people interested, and then get them to make a move for study and select their subject. Educational committees were not justified in holding their positions unless they had a strong conviction of the necessity of education, and were possessed of that spirit of enthusiasm which was necessary to achieve the objects they had in view.





FIRST DAY OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, 28th MAY, 1917.

MORNING SITTING.

The Congress itself was held in the Albert Hall, Swansea, and when the proceedings began on the Monday morning (28th May) there would be close upon a thousand delegates present. Mr. W. Gregory, J.P. (Preston, and deputy-chairman), presided over the initial stages of the Congress, and with him on the platform were Mr. E. R. Wood (Ton, and president-elect), the Deputy-Mayor of Swansea (Mr. Ben Jones), the Town Clerk (Mr. H. Langboath), the Vicar of Swansea (Rev. the Hon. Talbot Rice, M.A.), Mr. H. J. May (secretary, International Co-operative Alliance), Mr. W. Straker (Trade Union Congress), Mr. J. C. Williams (National Union of Teachers), Mr. J. J. Dent (Labour Department, Board of Trade), Mr. A. J. Cleuet (Union and Wholesale Society of France), Messrs. I. V. Bubnoff, E. Yarkoff, and S. Hermer (London representatives of co-operative institutions in Russia), Messrs. T. Killon (chairman) and T. Brodrick (secretary), Wholesale Society; Messrs. R. Stewart (chairman) and J. Pearson (secretary), Scottish Wholesale Society; Mr. A. Whitehead (general secretary of the Co-operative Union), Mr. T. Horrocks (assistant-secretary), members of the Standing Orders Committee, and members of the Central Board.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

At the suggestion of the deputy-chairman, the delegates sang the National Anthem.

Subsequently the DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said: My first duty this morning should have been to introduce to you the Mayor of Swansea (Mr. Alderman

Davies), to give you a civic welcome to Swansea, but unfortunately the Mayor has not arrived. We have, however, the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. Ben Jones) with us, and he, I have no doubt, will be equal to the occasion. Certainly we appreciate his presence. Therefore, without any further remarks from myself, I will ask Mr. Ben Jones to give this Congress a civic welcome to Swansea.

DEPUTY-MAYOR'S WELCOME

Mr. JONES said: I am very sorry the Mayor has not yet arrived. He told your president (Mr. Wood) and myself last Saturday that he was not very well, and I understand he had to call in the doctor yesterday. But though the Mayor is not here in the body I am sure he is here in the spirit. He has looked forward to this Congress with a great deal of pleasure, and had the intention of being here early this morning. I am sure I am speaking for Swansea in general when I say I hope your visit to Swansea will be a very pleasant one. I also hope it will be to the mutual benefit of everybody. I can say this of the trade union members of the Swansea Town Council, that there is no need for you to be ashamed of them. They are far above the average man so far as intelligence is concerned. We have had, as you no doubt know, two of them lately occupying the highest position in the town of Swansea, and they filled it with as much credit as any previous chief magistrate. I only see one of them here this morning, I mean Councillor David Williams. He has been a faithful member of the Co-operative Society in Swansea since its inception, I think. You will be surprised that for one twelve months he went on strike. He was not a member of this body during the year he was Mayor of Swansea. I think if any party had a rough time that year it was his own. No one in the world could have held the balance better than Councillor David Williams. I shall look back on my year of office with pleasure, and feel quite satisfied with myself if I fill the chair in the same way as Mr. David Williams has done. I see you have a great deal of work to do, but I hope you will be able to find time to see the different parts of Swansea. I am sure there is a great deal to be seen. I hope your visit will be a profitable one—profitable to yourself and profitable to the town of Swansea. I wish you success.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section), who was called upon to propose a vote of thanks, said: "It is my privilege and honour this morning to have the pleasure of proposing that the best thanks of this audience be presented through you, Mr. Deputy-Mayor, to the Mayor of the town of Swansea. We are very disappointed that he has not been able to favour us with his presence, especially after his remarks on Saturday. I gather that the Mayor is really a co-operator although he does not know it. He has the greatest regrets because we have never favoured this grand town of Swansea with some of our factories—he is so anxious that Swansea should be the A1 town of the British Isles. He does not realise that we are just as anxious that every town should be an A1 town. We are all with him. He is anxious

that Swansea should have the first Technical College in the British Isles; and we are again with him. We have realised that education is not a luxury but an essential——.

Mrs. Gasson was about to present the Deputy-Mayor with the usual souvenir when the Mayor himself arrived, and was greeted with loud applause.

The MAYOR, addressing the Congress, said: I am going to speak to you for five seconds. I wish I could have talked more, but I will say more on Wednesday night. I see there (at the foot of the balcony) the name of Robert Owen. He was a Welshman—so am I. I want to say this to you "You must think of Councillor David Williams as the Mayor of Swansea." He came to me about this Congress, and I said to him "Do everything in connection with this Congress as if you were still Mayor yourself." David Williams was a good Mayor. He keeps slating me and I him in the fullest strength in our power, but that is because we are both good Welshmen. Swansea has a high reputation, and in spite of war conditions we want to send you all away pleased with Swansea; but if there are any shortcomings or defects in the arrangements for this conference—go for David Williams. I am sorry I cannot say more just now, but if you want a long speech you must ask my wife. She professes she cannot make one, but I see you have suffered as well as I have. I will only say now in the name of Swansea—"You are welcome."

Mrs. GASSON (addressing the Mayor) said: I have the greatest pleasure in presenting to you this book (a handsomely bound copy of "Industrial Co-operation.") If used as a text-book for men or women it will be useful for your Technical College, and I will ask you to accept this copy, to give it a place in your library, and to study it, and if you do, it will make you more convinced of the value of co-operation than you told us you were on Saturday.

The MAYOR accepted the gift, and briefly acknowledged it.

Mr. T. KILLON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) said: I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution. My duty this morning is to present to the Mayor, on behalf of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, a copy of the "Annual," in which he will find some very useful information.

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: The proposal I have to put is "That this Congress thanks the Mayor for his presence this morning." I am given to understand that he is not very well, and he has made a very strong effort to come here this morning and do what he has done. He is here against his doctor's orders. We appreciate his efforts in trying to make us at home in Swansea. We are also pleased to have the Deputy-Mayor here, and we thank him for the effort he made in the absence of the Mayor at the beginning.

The proposal was put to the Congress and carried with acclamation.

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: We will try to make our stay a memorable one. The Mayor says there is no town like Swansea. We hope to find it true when we investigate the matter a little closer.

The MAYOR : I think I am expected to reply. There is one thing I should like to explain. Swansea is not a city—but it may be soon. Before you leave Swansea I hope to come and see you, and to tell you something of the district. I am sure that you will be convinced before the week is out that Swansea is the most hospitable town in the kingdom.

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN : It is my pleasure to introduce my successor in the chair, Mr. E. R. Wood. Mr. Wood is a gentleman who stands very high in the estimation of all, and those who have been privileged to come into intimate contact with him for many years know that during his long life he has devoted much time to the various movements which appeal to him having a humanising effort in view. It is as a co-operator we know and appreciate Mr. Wood the best. He has spent a considerable portion of his life in propagating the principles of the movement, especially in this part of the kingdom—his beloved Wales. I think it is unnecessary for me to say more than this. I know sufficiently well of Mr. Wood to predict that he will make a very excellent president. Twelve months ago you were good enough to extend to me very generous consideration which assisted me very much in my attempt to uphold the traditions of the chair, and I appeal to you on this occasion to extend to Mr. Wood a similar measure of consideration, so that when the time comes for him to vacate the chair he may retain those happy memories which a position of this kind is bound to produce—in the memories of one privileged to preside in the highest office the movement is able to bestow on its members. I have great pleasure in asking Mr. Wood to take the chair, and to deliver his inaugural address.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The PRESIDENT, who was received with cheers, then delivered his address as follows :—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am deeply grateful for the honour conferred upon me by the United Board and the Reception Committee in extending to me the invitation to occupy the presidential chair at this Congress. I can assure you that I felt very diffident, in accepting such a responsible position. I am fully conscious of my many shortcomings. The dignity pertaining to a high social position is not mine, neither can I lay claim to any great degree of education and culture, nor to that ability which has generally been associated with the presidency in the past. The only reasons which justify to me the acceptance of such a position, are my intense love for the co-operative movement and my readiness to serve it to the utmost of my ability, in any capacity for which my colleagues deem me qualified. I sincerely crave your sympathetic assistance

in executing my presidential duties, felicitous to the occasion, and worthy of the inherited traditions of our Congress.

We had hoped that ere this Congress met the great war in which we are engaged would have been brought to a successful issue, and that we could have rejoiced together at the incoming of peace and concord among nations. In this we are disappointed. The end is not yet, but we sincerely hope it is drawing nigh. We agonise for the termination of this horrible slaughter. Our hearts bleed for those who suffer on the battlefield and at home. The sacrifice of men and money has been great, and we hope and pray it will not be in vain, but that the right of small nations to live will be vindicated, so that another war between civilised nations will be made absolutely impossible. Co-operators should exert whatever powers they possess nationally to ensure a permanent settlement, based upon the principles of justice, equity, and brotherhood. International peace based upon these principles, together with a court of arbitration, should be the aim of all civilised nations. War, with all its horrors, should be an unthinkable crime. The goal of the human race is towards the realisation of that peace of which the angels sang over the fields of Bethlehem twenty centuries ago. We have hitherto made but slow progress towards its attainment, but the more we drink of the spirit of the Prince of Peace, the birth of whom the angels came to herald, the better shall we be able to realise the only satisfying solution of our national and international problems.

It was thought at one time that it would be better not to hold the Congress this year, in consequence of the great expense to societies in sending delegates. If, however, there was a time in which it was necessary for the co-operative movement to take its bearings, it is doubly more so to-day. We are on the threshold of a new era. A greater responsibility rests upon this Congress than possibly upon any that has preceded it. We are brought face to face with problems which will test our collective wisdom, tact, and principles to the utmost. In connection with the report of the Central Board and of the Survey Committee, together with resolutions sent in, momentous questions will have to be discussed in relation to the methods of defending our movement against

the unjust attacks of our opponents. It will also be our task to discuss the placing of the movement in a more advantageous position, so that it can assert its rights and further its principles with greater success and ease in the years to come.

We regret that it has not been possible to compile the statistics in time to present them to this Congress, the reason for that, as stated in the Central Board's report, is chiefly the shortage of the clerical staff at the societies and Central office. We are, therefore, unable to review our position, as we usually do, and ascertain what progress we have made during the last year.

I am given to understand, however, that, according to the returns to hand, considerable progress has been made all along the line, notwithstanding the high prices and the shortage of commodities, and the further depletion of the ranks of our employés.

It may not, however, be uninteresting to note the position as revealed by the figures for 1915, and compare it with that shown by the statistics presented to the Congress when it last visited our section at Newport in 1908.

Our membership stood at the end of 1907 at 2,434,085; in 1915, at 3,310,524, showing an increase of 876,439; and if the same ratio of increase took place during 1916 as that of 1915, the number at present should stand well over the 3½ million.

In share capital the increase during the eight years has been £15,147,546, £32,055,229 being the amount in 1907, and £47,202,875 in 1915. The increase in trade during the same period has been enormous, realising the total of £59,316,496, and stands over £165,000,000; while the surplus disposable increased from £12,000,000 in 1907 to £17,000,000 in 1915.

The general progress set forth by these figures is such that we can be justly proud of. The development of this movement from 28 poor weavers, with their £28 of capital to 3,500,000 members, with shares of about £50,000,000, is, indeed, a marvellous achievement for the working men and women of this country. Its numerical strength, its sound economic position, and its lofty ideals, must be an asset of considerable value to the nation. And yet the successive governments have not shown that appreciation of the movement which its position and service deserve.

In consequence of the present strain upon our national resources it is to be hoped that the people will realise the great acquisition the co-operative movement has been during this crisis, and what further possibilities it promises to those who will more fully utilise its organisations.

While we feel justly proud of the progress of our movement, are we quite satisfied that our success is all that could be desired? Are we making a consistent effort to carry on our whole activities with due regard to the principles and regulations laid down by the early co-operators? One of the business principles adopted and consistently practised by the pioneers, to the mutual advantage of the society and members, was "*That market prices should be charged, and no credit given nor asked.*" We all know that we have wandered far from the path of rectitude in this matter. In 1907 the debts owing by members of distributive societies amounted to £977,953; and in 1914, £1,319,128, or an average debt per member of about 9s. This evil has been steadily increasing for many years. Some sections are much deeper in this sin than others. Take for instance the percentage of debts to sales and the percentage to share capital in each section:—

	To Sales.		To Share Capital.
	Per cent.		Per cent.
Irish.....	3·62	.. ..	14·04
Midland.....	·77	.. ..	1·64
Northern	2·08	.. ..	4·73
North-Western	1·01	.. ..	1·88
Scottish	2·42	.. ..	10·62
Southern	1·21	.. ..	2·98
South-Western	·94	.. ..	1·96
Western	1·87	.. ..	6·25

I think it is full time to purge the movement of this most unco-operative method of trading. This is a great source of weakness to the individual society, and has a most pernicious influence upon the characters of the members who practise it.

Another evil which exists in our midst is the competition prevailing between neighbouring societies, that selfish "com-

mercial rivalry," born of the spirit of "who shall be greatest." There seems to be a lamentable lack of that co-operative spirit, that spirit of brotherliness, of working together for one common end. Much time, money, and temper have been lost over these overlapping cases. The payment of uniform dividends in given areas would do much to counteract this competitive spirit.

In the matter of high dividends, I would seriously suggest that at the present crisis, with the abnormally high prices of the necessities of life, an effort should be made to so regulate our trade that only a very small margin over the actual cost, plus expenses, should be aimed at. This may test the loyalty of the members, but, personally, I have no fear that any who are co-operators from conviction will desert us. They would too highly appreciate the effort to keep down prices to do so. It would act beneficially upon societies in many ways, and would at present prove a boon to the poorer members of the community.

We are very glad also to recognise the great increase in production. In 1907 the total figures stood at £10,661,418, with 26,938 employes and £4,350,935 capital employed. Our position in 1915 stood at £20,453,787 of trade, an increase of £9,792,369; number of employes, 38,304, an increase of 11,356; while the capital employed increased by over £2,000,000, and stands at £6,358,089. Such substantial increase in production is the source of great satisfaction to us all. This side of the movement will again develop, we hope, at a greater ratio than it has in the past. That must be so, otherwise the co-operative movement will not be in that independent position which is so essential to its future well-being. We do not desire to be always at the mercy of private manufacturers, enterprising monopolists, and profiteers. If we desire to realise our ambition we must obtain access, in an increasing degree, to the sources of raw materials. We understand that the Co-operative Wholesale Societies are already developing satisfactorily in this direction, and are opening up in the various countries of the world. We sincerely wish them every possible success in all their enterprises. We must remember, however, that the measure of success possible to them will be the measure of the financial support afforded them, and the loyalty of societies

to co-operative productions. What if societies called in the £1,250,000 of outstanding debts, and placed them at the disposal of the Wholesales to speed up production? It would be infinitely better for all if something of this kind could be done. It is most dishonourable to urge upon the productive societies to extend their operations while our trade and capital flow into other channels. This inconsistency in some cases is deplorable, and shows a lamentable lack of co-operative convictions.

There is one phase of co-operative production which I feel I must refer to, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Gregory laid due emphasis upon it at Lancaster, and that is the unnecessary amount of competition and overlapping which exists at present between the various productive societies. Mr. Lander spoke encouraging words upon the matter at Preston, and we were led to hope some understanding would have been arrived at. There being, however, no clear vision upon the subject, it was allowed to fall through. In view of our present circumstances and the great need of closing our ranks, shall we not attempt to bring about some better arrangement than at present exists. I think that in the collective wisdom of the Co-operative Union it is quite possible to bring into existence some system more consistent with co-operative principles, and with that due regard for the convictions of the two schools of thought chiefly implicated.

We have grown numerically strong, touching the lives of about 15 millions of the population of Great Britain. Are the elevating influences of our principles upon the life of the nation commensurate with our numerical strength? I have already referred to certain "weaknesses" and "blemishes," which suggest to us that the co-operative faith may be weakening, and that our grasp of co-operative principles may be slackening, and that the co-operative spirit—that spirit of brotherhood—does not permeate our movement as of yore.

One great danger which besets a movement like ours, is that having to pay so much constant attention to the economic side of life, we gradually lose sight of the importance of its ethical side. The high ideals seem to recede into the dim distance, and we become satisfied with the material benefits which gratify the

selfish propensities of our natures. It is well, therefore, that we should occasionally, even in our Congresses, glance at the basic principles and ideals of our movement. It certainly would not be inexpedient to do so at these times. We are facing new conditions of life. "Old things have passed away, behold all things have become new." It will be impossible for us to secure true, permanent and effectual progress in the new condition of things, or at any time, unless we clearly comprehend our ideals. We must have a clear vision of our goal. The early co-operators had firmly grasped their ideals, and they also had a clear conception of the principles and methods by which they hoped to attain them. The pioneers have clearly set them forth, thus :—

"The objects of this society are to arrange for the pecuniary benefit and improvement of the social and domestic condition of its members, by raising a sufficient amount of capital in shares of £1 each, to bring into operation the following plans and arrangements—

- "(1) The establishment of a Store for the sale of provisions, clothing, &c.
- "(2) The building, purchasing, or erecting a number of houses in which those members desiring to assist each other in improving their domestic and social conditions, may reside.
- "(3) To commence the manufacture of such articles as the Society may determine upon, for the employment of such members as may be without employment, or who may be suffering in consequence of repeated reductions in their wages.
- "(4) As a further benefit and security to the members of this Society, the Society shall purchase, or rent an estate or estates of land, which shall be cultivated by the members who may be out of employment, or whose labour may be badly remunerated.
- "(5) That as soon as practicable, this Society shall proceed to arrange the powers of production, distribution, education, and government; or in other words, to establish a self supporting home colony of united

interests, or assist other societies in establishing such colonies.

“(6) That for the promotion of sobriety, a Temperance Hotel be opened in one of the Society’s houses as soon as convenient.”

This is the comprehensive programme of the 28 pioneers of Rochdale—those men who had drunk so deeply of the spirit and teaching of Robert Owen. They, like Robert Owen, had seen the goal, had grasped the ideal, but differed somewhat in the method of attaining it. Communism upon a large scale loomed largely in Robert Owen’s vision, and for the financing of which he looked to the State and large capitalists. The pioneers, upon the other hand, had a vision in which the attainment of that community, the self-governing colony which was to do so much for the “formation of character,” would develop from a small beginning in shopkeeping. It is said that this method seemed pitiful in the eyes of Robert Owen. It could never supply funds to carry on large designs such as he had, “and it is a singular fact,” said the late Mr. Holyoake, “that co-operative shopkeeping, which was destined to carry forward the idea of co-operation, should have to make its way unaided and unapplauded by the founder of co-operation.”

At a later period in the history of the co-operative movement, when it became expedient that a “Union” of co-operative societies should be established, the principles and ideals of the union were set forth by Mr. Thomas Hughes in the Congress held in London in 1869. They are as follows :—

“This Union is formed to promote the practice of truthfulness, justice, and economy in production and exchange—

“(1) By the abolition of all false dealings, either (a) direct, by representing any article produced or sold to be other than what it is known to the producer or vendor to be ; or (b) indirect, by concealing from the purchaser any fact known to the vendor, material to be known by the purchaser, to enable him to judge of the value of the article purchased.

“(2) By conciliating the conflicting interests of the capitalists,

the worker, and the purchaser, through the equitable division amongst them of the fund commonly known as profit.

“(3) By preventing waste of labour now caused by unregulated competition.”

These are the principles and ideals of the pioneers and early co-operators, upon which this great movement has been founded, and has made such marvellous developments. If we would be worthy of the pioneers we must keep our eyes fixed upon their high ideals. The ultimate goal of the co-operative movement is not the making and saving of money, but the development of human character. This is pre-eminently the work of the Co-operative Union. It has the character and conscience of the movement in its keeping. That there is a strong desire in the Union to be of greater service and inspiration to the whole movement is evident from the supreme effort that is being made by the Survey Committee to bring the Union in its organisation and methods to a more efficient state.

It is gratifying to see by the report respecting education that a bold attempt is being made to place this branch of our activities upon a broader and more up-to-date basis. It is very probable that criticisms may be made of some portions of the scheme, but let us hope they will be both sympathetic and constructive. There is no gainsaying the fact that reform in our educational system is long overdue. The Central Education Committee has done good work in the past under very difficult circumstances. The complete indifference of a large number of our societies to any form of education, and the niggardly support given to efforts prevailing in others, have left us with a large membership who have absolutely no co-operative convictions. The only link which binds them to the society is the weak and unreliable one of “divi.” It will be impossible for this great social reform movement, in which there are enormous possibilities, to go forward and discharge its responsibilities to humanity with a membership to rely upon who are ignorant of its most elementary principles. An intelligent and educated membership is an asset of considerable value to any society, and no sacrifice should be considered too great to secure it.

The decision of the last Congress authorising the formation of Hours and Wages Boards has been carried out by the Central Board, and the new boards have commenced their duties in nearly all the sections. I am confident that these boards can be a source of great strength to the movement if sympathetically and judiciously worked. They can be utilised in bringing about a closer relationship between societies in the various districts, and more uniformity, not only as to hours and wages, but also as to the general working of the societies. If these things are kept in view and a healthy co-operative spirit cultivated, many of the anomalies which at present exist would be removed.

We are also hopeful that the work of the new boards in their relation to hours and wages will be such that a perfect agreement with the various trade unions will be arrived at, so that the possibility of any friction causing a cessation of work will be remote.

You will be called upon in the course of our meetings here to discuss the questions of "Excess Profits" and Income Tax, and you will be asked to pass certain resolutions with respect to them. I sincerely hope that this Congress will speak with no uncertain voice upon these matters.

In charging "Excess Profits" upon the savings of co-operators the British House of Commons perpetrated an act of grave injustice upon a body of the most loyal and patriotic of its citizens. The anomalies created by this unjust tax are such that redress must be obtained. The righteousness of our cause is beyond question, for where there is no "profit" there can be no "excess profit." We want neither State aid nor State favours, but we do desire and demand State justice, and we will not rest until we secure it. The Government must be brought to realise the fact that at a time when the people were willingly giving of their sons to war, 3½ millions of the cream of the working classes were unjustly taxed at the instigation of profiteers, who themselves would suck the very vitals of the nation for their own aggrandisement.

With respect to the question of Income Tax, the propaganda already commenced should continue until the true position of the co-operative movement is thoroughly understood. It must be

made perfectly clear that we cannot tolerate an embargo upon our trade in the interest of competitive traders and profiteers.

The present condition of things within, and without, the movement, clearly indicate that the Co-operative Union is upon its trial. The decisions of this Congress upon the momentous questions submitted to it should be consistent with its professed principles; and the societies should accept the decisions, to loyally carry them out. The Co-operative Union must be kept intact; and an effort made to inspire greater loyalty to the findings of its highest authority, as expressed by Congress.

I cannot close my remarks without referring to the great change which has taken place in the great Russian Empire. Russia has at last thrown off the shackles of autocracy and tyranny. Democracy has come to its own. We sincerely hope that the democratic Government of our Ally may be set upon a sound constitutional basis, and that the spirit of freedom, progress, and co-operation may have full play. With all our heart we say, "Long live the Duma." This change has been brought about so silently, and apparently so suddenly, that it seems inexplicable. Influences have, however, been at work for many years in Russia; and men like Tolstoy and others have, by their teaching and example, done much to bring this revolution about. No man lives to himself, he sheds an influence upon all around him. No effort for the uplifting of our fellow-men, and no struggle on behalf of the great eternal principles of truth, justice, liberty, and love, are ever made in vain. There is a spirit which pervades the world, breathing upon men and nations, it brings convictions home and inspires a consistency of action, the mature moment arrives, so that in consequence a "nation is born in a day."

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm."

Russia and France had previously taken a bold step in prohibiting intoxicating drinks. I should be pleased if I were able to say that Great Britain had courage to follow them in this. Up to the present our Government, although faced with a shortage of bread, has deemed it expedient to permit great quantities

of foodstuffs to be wasted in the making of the less essential commodity of beer. It is estimated that to produce the reduced quantity of beer (ten million barrels) it requires 45,000 tons of sugar, 20,000 tons of maize, and 360,000 tons of barley. Is it reasonable that all this waste should take place while many are suffering for the want of bread? Is it consistent with their appeal to the people to economise? Our great co-operative movement stands for social and commercial purity. We should therefore exert our influence to eradicate out of our midst this prolific source of so much moral impurity. The cesspools of iniquity in our large centres, mainly caused by drink, are a disgrace to Christian England. Indifference to these evils will bring a terrible retribution upon the nation.

“ Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they
grind exceeding small;
Though with patience he stands waiting, with
exactness grinds he all.”

Notwithstanding all the social and commercial evils which surround us, the principles upon which our movement is founded must succeed until the whole ramifications of our national and international life will be permeated. A better time is to come, when the “ sword shall be turned into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks.” “ When the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and young lion and the fatling together; and a young child shall lead them.” There will then be “ new heavens and a new earth *in which righteousness shall dwell.*” When that time comes we shall realise to what a large extent the co-operative movement will have helped to bring it about. Let us therefore go forward, and practise more fully the principles of “ truthfulness, justice, economy, and brotherly love.”

“ Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.”

“ Ar waethaf y cwmwl daw'r wawr i oleuo—
Ar waethaf y llwydrew daw'r haf-ddydd i'r ddol:
Cyd safwn! Cyd ddringwn! heb feddwl am flino,
Awn rhagom, awn rhagom, heb edrych yn ol.”

LETTERS FROM CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

The GENERAL SECRETARY having drawn attention to the Standing Orders, and emphasised the portion which related to the sending in of resolutions, read letters from co-operative organisations in other countries regretting their inability to send delegates.

DANISH CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

The first letter was from the Co-operative Union of Denmark, and was as follows:—

"We have received your kind invitation to be represented at your Congress in Swansea, the 28-30th May, for which we beg to thank you, but regret having to inform you that owing to the dangerous and troublesome travelling circumstances which obtain at present, which are the consequence of the war, our Board have resolved this year not to send delegates to foreign Congresses. We send you our best wishes, and hope that your Congress may give the usual good results. Please accept our most cordial regards."

OUR FINNISH FRIENDS.

The directors of the Finnish Co-operative Wholesale Society wrote as follows:—

"Our best thanks for your kind invitation to be represented at your Congress, but, owing to the present circumstances, we regret we are unable to send this year representatives to your grand Congress, which very year proves a remarkable event in your own co-operative movement, and also in an international sense, drawing to itself, as it does, the attention also of co-operators of foreign countries. Wishing your Congress the best possible success, we send you the fraternal greetings of the Finnish co-operators, and hope your co-operative movement in its great achievements will have a glorious future and a rapid progress towards the co-operative commonwealth as the common and great goal in the endeavours of the co-operators of the whole world—implying, as it does, the real freedom and prosperity of mankind and of all nations."

THE DUTCH UNION AND THE WAR.

The next letter I have to read (continued the General Secretary) is from the Co-operative Union in Holland, and is as follows:—

"I am very sorry to have to write you that in the circumstances at the present moment it seems impossible for us to come to the yearly co-operative Congress of your Union. We should very much like to have come, but we are not at all sure that it would be possible for us to enter your country, and at the same time we do not know whether we should be allowed to travel. Therefore, we must lay aside your invitation, and beg you to believe in our good feelings for the results of your Congress. Convey to your co-operators our best greetings and wishes."

CO-OPERATION IN ITALY.

We have also here (proceeded the General Secretary) a letter from our friends in Italy. It is an interesting letter, but as it is somewhat lengthy I will only read the main portions. The whole of the letter will, however, be given in the official report of this Congress.

"Extremely regretting that we cannot send our representatives to your Congress, we beg to be allowed to express to you our admiration for the splendid example of activity English co-operation gives to the world in this sad period of universal disorder. On our part we are glad to inform you that the Italian co-operative movement has been able to face firmly the storm, giving very great aid to our country, and preserving almost completely its structural organisation. Though small distributive societies, in rural communities especially, have disappeared, those losses have been largely compensated by the new societies which have arisen, and are continually increasing, during the last few months. Our distributive co-operative societies, which were 2,400 in the year 1915, are now some hundreds more, and their work is very much greater, not only in value, but in quantity. In great centres as Milano, Torino, Genoa, Tirenze, Rome, &c., co-operation has strengthened itself wonderfully. The sales have been three and four times more than before; and co-operators, chosen as members in Government committees, have worked very efficaciously to defend consumers' interests.

"Among the societies which realised the greatest increase in their sales, we may note:

1. The *Unione Co-operativa at Milan*. Its sales, which in 1915 amounted to 15 millions, in 1916 reached 24 millions. For the month of March, in 1917, its sales have been of 2,300,000 *lire*, that is to say half a million more than in March, 1916.
2. The *Alleanza di Torino*. Its sales in 1915 were 8 millions, in 1916 15 millions. The progress is very remarkable in the current year: 2 millions in January, 1917; while in January, 1916, they were 1½ millions.
3. The *Unione Militare* in 1915, had 20 millions of sales; in 1916, 37 millions. The increase is due mainly to the great stores that the *Unione Militare* keeps near the war fields.
4. The *Suburbana di Milano* (Co-operative Agenti Ferroviare). The sales which were 6 millions in 1915, have reached 10 millions in 1916, and are continually increasing.
5. The *Consorzio Italiano delle Co-operative di Consumo* (a wholesale magazine) which has had a very stunted growth, is now taking on new life, and is progressing rapidly.

"We may, therefore, affirm that the total sales of our distributive societies, which before 1916 were about 150 millions a year, have been nearly 300 millions in 1916.

"The measures recently taken by the Government to attenuate the food crisis, opened to the co-operative movement a very large field to extend its

activities. The institution of a *Commissariato generale dei consumi*, confided to S.E. On. Canepa, evidently shows a great tendency towards co-operative principles, and is now creating in Italy many offices and organisations, which will strengthen our co-operative movement. Our *Lega Nazionale delle Co-operative* has already traced the main lines of its programme, in order to avail itself, in the best manner, of the present situation, so that when normal times come again, the co-operative movement will be able to inherit the greatest part of the institutions created by the State, the municipalities, and the civil assistance committees, during the war, in defence of consumers. So we are proud and glad to assure you our country will soon find herself at a very advanced place in the co-operative army, and ready and willing to concur with all her new forces to the triumph of the co-operative principles in the world."

The General Secretary also read letters of regret for inability to send representatives from the Co-operative Unions of Norway and Switzerland. Both unions sent fraternal greetings. The co-operators of Norway also expressed the hope that the deliberations of the Congress would "contribute to the development of the English co-operative movement."

Other letters read were to the effect that Monsieur Cleuet would attend the Congress as the representative of the Wholesale Society and Co-operative Union of France, and Mr. F. E. Pulsford, who was actively associated with the co-operative movement in Australia, would be present as a visitor.

The General Secretary concluded by drawing attention to the presence of representatives of co-operative institutions in Russia.

The audience, led by the organ, then sang the "Marseillaise."

GREETINGS FROM RUSSIA.

When the echoes of "La Marseillaise" died away there was a remarkable demonstration. M. I. V. Bubnoff (manager of the London branch of the Moscow-Narodny Bank) had the honour of being the first representative of Democratic Russia to address a British Co-operative Congress. At his rising the enthusiasm of the delegates found expression in their greeting. Rising to salute the visitors the delegates broke into loud cheers which, renewed again and again, rose in a grand *crescendo*.

Quiet was at length restored, and M. I. V. BUBNOFF said: It affords me great pleasure to be able to address the Congress of the British Co-operators, and I beg to thank you on behalf of my friends and myself for your kind invitation to be present. I also have to proffer you the sincere greetings and best wishes of the co-operators of Free Russia. Nearly three years of a terrible and sanguinary war have shown that co-operation, as far as Russia is concerned, is a powerful factor, gradually increasing in strength, in the economic and social life of that country. Although the Russian co-operative movement could look back with a formal existence of 52 years, it is only in the last ten years, within our living memory, so to say, that it has suddenly grown up and expanded. As late as 1905 there were only a little over 5,000

co-operative societies in existence in Russia, but that year—the year of the first Russian revolution—proved the turning point in the history of our movement. Since then the number of societies has increased by leaps and bounds and at this moment there are over 46,000 co-operative societies scattered all over the plains of Russia with a membership of over 13,000,000 people. The turnover of the Co-operative Credit Societies amounts to £80,000,000, while the turnover of all the co-operative societies of Russia has long exceeded £200,000,000. The movement has its own financial centre in the Moscow-Narodny (People's) Bank, which I have the honour to represent here. There are co-operative unions in the districts which carry on the work of instruction and propaganda. Such an unprecedented development of the movement signifies an absolutely new era in the history of the agricultural classes of Russia. In organising the masses, in bringing to them knowledge and cultured habits of life, in raising the material welfare of the nation, co-operation in Russia is building a strong foundation for the new life. The importance of Russian co-operation has recently received a striking recognition in the appointment of four co-operative leaders to take charge of the regulating of the food supply of that country. This fact signifies an important victory for co-operation. The Russian co-operative societies have penetrated into the most remote corners of the land, and they are carrying on there, unheard and unseen, a work of gigantic dimensions. It is to them that the words of the philosopher can be applied with full truth : “ It is not round the creators of a great noise that the world is revolving, it revolves round the creators of great values.” The scope of the work of Russian co-operation is not limited to Russia. The agricultural nature of the country enables the export of agricultural products, and this fact compels the Russian co-operators to erect the necessary co-operative machinery for facilitating international exchange between co-operators, and thus our movement has to face the problem of international co-operative unification and solidarity. The tendencies permeate the minds of the Russian co-operators and meet with general approval. My friends in Russia sent me a week ago a telegram which we have printed in our journal, *The Russian Co-operator*, and which I now take the liberty of reading out to you :—

“ Dear Comrades,—Amongst Russian co-operators it is generally regarded as most desirable that an international co-operative conference be speedily convened for participation in the establishment of international economic relations, the liquidation of the war, and the consolidation of fraternity. Kindly inform us whether there exists any similar movement amongst British co-operators, and whether any practical steps are being taken for the convocation of such a conference. We will await an answer at your earliest convenience. With fraternal greetings, Secretary of Council of Russian Co-operative Conference, Shishkin.”

As part of the Russian democracy the Russian co-operators are in this giving expression to the general ideas of international solidarity and fraternity,

and is it too much to hope that their appeal would find an echo in the democratic ranks of British co-operators? The ideal basis of co-operative Russia is the same as here. We are followers of the same principles, and we regard ourselves as brothers and fellow-workers, and when you meet at your Congress and review the work which has been accomplished, and count up the enormous experience which you have gained, the eyes of all Russian co-operators are turned towards you. We applaud your success and your conquests in freeing the consumers from the shackles of capital. We admire your organisation, and we value it highly. We know that it is the spirit of the people which create organisation, that organisation creates liberty, and that liberty brings to humanity a peaceful and happy existence. At this moment when the sun of freedom has risen in my country the Russian co-operators are engaged taking their part in building up the new State. Of course it is impossible to expect that during the period of a great crisis at which the Russian revolution was born, new form of life can be created within two months. When the centuries old monster of autocracy is destroyed, and the air is full of dust and debris, those who have been profiting by the old régime try to depict Russia as tottering on the edge of a precipice. But we, co-operators of Russia, do not doubt the happy future of our country. However complicated and heavy the legacy of the old régime should be, we shall emerge on the Broadway of European civilisation, and I appeal to you, co-operators of Great Britain, to believe in Russian liberty, in its future, in its gigantic army of peaceful co-operators. Long live co-operation in Great Britain! Long live international co-operative unity!

ANOTHER RUSSIAN VISITOR.

Mr. E. YARKOFF (Union of Siberian Creamery Associations) addressed the Congress in Russian. The following translation of his address was read by the General Secretary :—

I am very glad that I am able to be present in person at your Congress, and to bring you greetings from far away Siberia. In the name of the Union of the Siberian Creamery Associations, I wish you further success in your peaceful conquests and efforts for the benefit of the labouring classes. Permit me to say a few words with regard to my Union. The Union of the Siberian Creamery Associations is one of the most powerful co-operative producers' organisations of Russia, and at the same time it occupies a prominent position among the co-operative consumers' societies. It was formed in 1908 in Kourgan, by twelve co-operative creameries and one consumers' shop, the whole turnover of which about that time did not exceed £200,000. In 1916 the membership of the Union consisted of over 1,000 creameries and about 800 consumers' shops, with a total turnover of about 7½ million pounds. The object of the Union, as of all other co-operative societies, is to dispense with the middleman, and to educate its members in the spirit of co-operative solidarity and mutual aid. Our annual meeting, which took place in Kourgan about the beginning of April last, decided to establish direct trade relation

between the producers in Siberia and the consumers in Great Britain, and I hope that this proposition will also appeal to British co-operators, and that at the end of the war it will be put into effect. Now, allow me to thank you very much indeed for your kind invitation and for the hearty reception you have afforded us, and to conclude my short speech with the words: "Long live the co-operators of Great Britain and Russia; long live the co-operators of every country; long live international co-operation."

CONGRATULATIONS FOR RUSSIA.

Mr. R. FLEMING (Central Board): It is my great pleasure to move "That this Congress of British Co-operators assembled at Swansea, representing over 3½ million members, who with their families form more than one-fourth of the population of the United Kingdom, heartily congratulates the Russian nation on the achievement of its political liberty and of freedom for democratic government. It expresses the fervent hope that under the new conditions the progress and prosperity of Russia and its people may reach their fullest development; and it further expresses the hope that in the new democracy the Russian Co-operative Movement may take its part with other democratic organisations in contributing to the prosperity and welfare of the nation."

There was no cause that evokes more splendid and passionate enthusiasm than the desire for liberty. To every friend of freedom, to every lover of humanity, the mighty happenings of the past three months in Russia must have been a matter for the highest hope and joy. When the first rumblings of the unrest were heard our hearts were thrilled with anticipation; later, with the sincerest rejoicings, we learnt that the revolution had become an accomplished fact. Since the time of the Bastille has there been any event of more tremendous historic significance? The Czar and his myrmidons have discovered how fiercely, how unquenchably, the flame of freedom booms in the hearts of men. Assuredly we live in days of a tremendous epoch-making time. We rejoice to-day with Russia in the freedom which she has secured. We rejoice that no more will she be held in bondage, not even by a Peter the Great or a Nicholas; she has shaken off the shackles which have bound her for centuries; now she comes forth to take her rightful place amongst the free people of the earth. Next to the possession of freedom none the less of a high and supreme practical importance is its proper exercise. The freedom of the individual, as of the nation, may prove a curse instead of a blessing, if the individual and the nation have not the genius to use their freedom to advantage. In the work of national reconstruction which lies before our Russian friends they have need for some sound, disinterested public-spirited statesmanship; for a sound character and temperament amongst her people. In the Provisional Government, amongst the many conditions laid down, was a provision for the free enfranchisement of all subject nations of Russia. To-day the elections are proceeding for the first national assembly, and we have the inspiring spectacle of all sections voting

on equal terms with the lordly Muscovites. We rejoice further that in this work of reconstruction co-operation can and will play a sound and useful part. We have listened with pleasure and appreciation to the statement our friend, Mr. Bubnoff, gave as to the present position of Russian co-operation. We rejoice in a sure and certain hope as to the future prosperity, welfare, power, and usefulness of co-operation in that great country. We admire the tenacity of purpose and zeal with which our Russian comrades have through good report and bad report, through prosperity and adversity, succeeded in realising in some measure and degree our hopes and aspirations as a movement. We believe that co-operation made powerful from this experience will be better applied to the new régime in exercising a beneficial influence to become a prime agent in the solution of the various problems which confront Russian statesmanship. Co-operation will prove to be "the little leaven that leaveneth the whole lump," and will be the surest antidote for reaction. We must surely admit that there is always a danger in circumstances, such as those which confront our Russian Allies to-day. The downfall of Czardom means the death-knell of Kaiserism. As the Romanoffs have gone so the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs must follow. The day of autocrats is passing and will soon be gone; the reign of the common people is at hand. I am seeking to voice humbly and ineffectually the passion and emotions which surge in every co-operator's breast to-day. We bid our Russian friends Godspeed in the future; we bid them welcome into the international co-operation of a democratic people, in their onward march to a wider justice and nobler freedom.

Mr. W. GALLACHER (Co-operative Insurance Society) seconded the resolution. He said: It is fitting that the co-operators of the British Isles, whose movement is striving for the attainment of economic freedom for the people should congratulate the Russian people on the great victory they have achieved for political emancipation. Hail to Russia! Welcome to the new Republic—to the latest recruit to the great army of democracy which is fighting, not for territory, not for indemnities, but for a high ideal, the social welfare of the people which the future undoubtedly holds for us. With Mr. Fleming, I say, let the lovers of freedom rejoice. But yesterday Russia seemed to be synonymous for serfdom, the home of reaction, a barrier to progress, a blot upon civilisation, an absolute despotism going back a thousand years, and yet in a moment the tide of democracy rushes up, and the throne of tyranny, which seemed based upon a rock, topples over as though it were a house of cards. During the war Russia has found its soul. War at its best is a diabolical thing, but it occasionally causes the people to turn their eyes upon their rulers, and almost invariably they find them wanting. To-day, emperors, kings, and princes are discovering that peoples are not created for them, but that they are the servants of the people, and very badly they have served them. But Russia must beware, and it must take care that which she has won is not lost. The forces of reaction never sleep, and are tireless as the sea. Through their long fight of blood and

agony the Russian people have emerged into the dawn of political freedom. Let them see to it that this great good so dearly won is not cheaply lost through apathy, indifference, or internal strife. Political freedom is not an end, but a means to an end. The fight is not merely against class, power, and privilege, but the real conflict is between justice and injustice, and against the error, ignorance, and darkness that cloud the human intellect, and the end is the greatest possible development, in the highest possible sense, of the human race. The Russian people have still, then, social and economic freedom to win. Co-operation will assist them to gain economic liberty, but they will require a trade union movement and a labour movement as well. Let the efforts of the Russian people be for us here in Britain the home and centre of freedom, a stimulus and an example. What! are there some people here who do not agree that this is the land of liberty? Why! there must be some trade-unionists here or some co-operators who have had to pay Excess Profits Duty! Finally, let us see to it that the war which has brought such a measure of freedom to Russia does not leave us worse than before—that the chains which we have so laboriously struck off link by link are not more firmly fixed than ever on our limbs as a result of the war, by the powers of militarism, capitalism, and class privilege.

The PRESIDENT: Will those in favour of the resolution say "Aye"?

A chorus of "Ayes" responded.

Mr. A. MURRAY (Birkenhead): May I be allowed to have an addition to the resolution?

The PRESIDENT: No; I have to declare the resolution unanimously carried. Continuing, the President said: We have a deputation from the Trade Union Congress, and I have to ask Mr. Straker to address you.

TRADE-UNIONISM AND CO-OPERATION.

Mr. W. STRAKER said: Worthy Chairman, Co-operators, and Trade-unionists—for I have discovered that there are many of the latter present—I noticed from the reception Mr. Gallacher got that all here are not of one mind, but as an invited guest I may not venture upon any controversial question nor occupy the time of this Congress. I will admit, however, as one who has spent a fairly long lifetime in the midst of controversies, that the temptation is great. I am not going into a host of figures regarding trade-unionism, because these figures are easily available, and the Chairman has given us as many figures this morning as we can well remember. Happily we will be supplied with a copy of his address. Our Russian friends, too, have supplied us with a lot of figures, and I will venture to say that, in the face of these stupendous co-operative figures, we can understand the Russian revolution that has taken place. The wonder is only that it has not come sooner. I am highly pleased with the welcome the Chairman has given us this morning, but I want to confine myself merely to reciting my diary for the week-end, and telling you what is suggested by it. I arrived in Swansea on Friday afternoon, and shortly afterwards my eyes were raised

to those great cliffs and heights above the town. I thought : If I can only get to those terraces what a splendid view I will have of Swansea Bay. So I commenced to climb. But—what a disappointment when I got there. I found that everywhere my view was hindered by stone walls, and I was not permitted to look upon the beauties that I knew lay beneath. In my haste and in my temper—for, momentarily, all great men lose their temper, I said things indicative of the mental attitude of the Swansea people. I asked : Are they afraid to look out on the world of interested things ? But I recovered. I looked up at the windows in those walls in which I was imprisoned, and as I gazed, I said : This is the result of selfishness, for while people will look upon their beauties they will not allow the stranger to do so. But I looked along the road, and then I saw higher streets and green fields and the open hills, and I knew then that if it had not been for those stone walls I might never have seen that higher ground. I climbed again and then at length I saw the open sea. I thought to myself, as I looked out upon it : Is this not just the experience of every individual in life ? It takes the pain we suffer, and the difficulties we contend with, to force us to the higher things. What is true of the individual life is true of the common life. Co-operation is no exception even to that rule, that difficulties we find ourselves in are the means of compelling us to make new departures. I feel this morning that I could almost thank the Government for the infliction upon the co-operative movement of this unjust Excess Profits Duty. Why do we pay this tax ? Because we are willing to allow some other body to make profit out of us. But we are going to move upward, and that scandal has to be removed. Do not think that I did not hesitate before I attempted to reach that higher ground from which I viewed those beauties. I hesitated a good deal. In all our movements there is hesitation before we make up our minds to go forward. Some hesitate and tremble far too long. They multiply difficulties and magnify dangers, and tell us of the difficulties that lie before us if we take the step. Some grumble and stand still, because the world is going on and leaving them standing. We cannot all dwell on the mountain top. I had to come down from my height because man is a social animal. I had to get down into the streets where men do congregate, but I went home on Friday evening well pleased with my experience. On Saturday I found that the Arrangements Committee did not forget the social side of human nature, and many social entertainments had been arranged for the delegates. I am inclined to think that not only trade-unionism, but co-operation also, has neglected that side ; but we have to tone our minds up to it. I remember that some of the men beside me are young. I heard a lady say at one of the meetings on Saturday that we could not help growing old—it surprised me, because I thought that a woman did not grow any older after twenty-one. That lady, however, said that growing old was merely a bad habit. We are told that eternity has neither beginning nor ending. I am eternal, therefore I have made up my mind that I shall never grow old. Let us never allow ourselves to lose our optimism or let the heights get beyond our gaze.

I have the special privilege to carry to this Congress of co-operators the fraternal greetings of the Trade Union Congress of 1916. We have so long regarded ourselves as two movements, but we should no longer so regard ourselves. We are but two wings of the one great movement, and what we want is a better understanding, a better co-relation and a better co-ordination, so that we may unite our forces for our common good. We have our differences and our disputes as all well regulated families have, but we should never let these lead to estrangement. The worker as a co-operator should not forget the worker as a trade-unionist. Do not let the worker as a co-operator fall into the position of the private employer who seeks labour as cheap as possible. Do not let the worker as trade-unionist forget the worker as co-operator. Co-operation has to exist in the midst of the keenest competition. I know and I trust it will always lead in the van so far as conditions to the workers are concerned, but its distance in front is limited by this competition, and it cannot give everything that some of us trade-unionists would like. Let us, between us, agree to general principles; beware of falling out on details, and beware of emphasising the points on which we differ, and neglecting those on which we agree.

DEPUTATION FROM THE TEACHERS' UNION.

Mr. J. C. WILLIAMS, representing the National Union of Teachers, said: In the name of the Executive of the National Union of Teachers I bring friendly greetings and best wishes for the progress and prosperity of the great Co-operative Movement. It is an added pleasure to be able to convey that message in my native town. You will find that Swansea is a very attractive place. Proceeding, he said: There is a reference in your report to the fact that no member of this Congress was invited to the conference of the National Union of Teachers at Easter. We had to abandon our Congress according to Board of Trade orders, and that was the reason why. When peace is restored and normal activities resumed, we shall be glad to welcome at our conferences once more the delegates from this great Co-operative Movement. I am greatly interested in your report, and in your increasing activities and progress. Particularly am I interested in the report of your Parliamentary Committee, who do not wish you to forget the fact that in spite of membership, your political policy is practically a negligible quantity; and it will be interesting to me to watch in the course of this Congress, how you are prepared to bestir yourselves to take your rightful position in the scheme of things, and not to be in the back-wash of the coming revolution, but in the forefront. The National Union of Teachers discovered the necessity for Parliamentary representation long ago, and we fancy that in the plan we have adopted there is a very happy solution of the problem. We have representatives chosen from the three political parties, and at the earliest opportunity we shall try to increase it from three groups. I cannot say we are entirely satisfied. There is a tendency to seek closer association in the democratic party. But that is for the future. We have a

Parliamentary correspondent in every constituency to bring every question brought forward before the notice of the individual member of Parliament. I am also interested in the work of your Central Education Committee, your Summer Schools, your Week-end Schools, your Circles for study, technical classes, the establishment of a Co-operative College; and what attracts me more than anything else is the main resolution on educational reconstruction. I hope that this great gathering will pass this resolution with acclamation and unanimity. The National Union of Teachers welcomes the co-operation of this great Congress in bringing about the five urgent reforms enumerated in your main resolution. Just as your Committee point out to you that the success of the movement depends upon the mental attitude of the co-operators of to-day towards the co-operators of to-morrow, so also must all Governments realise now more than ever that the future well-being of all States must rest upon an educated democracy. We must begin at the beginning. Primary schools must have a good foundation. There is handled the raw material of the nation. Then comes the education of the adolescent, and here lies the greatest hiatus in our educational programme. It leads to blind alley occupations and unemployment. Proceeding, Mr. Williams said: Mr. Fisher, the new Minister of Education, has said that one of the immediate results of the increased prosperity of the working classes during the war has been the increase in the number of pupils in the secondary schools and the length of stay in the schools. Given the means, and granted the facilities, there will be plenty of enlightened parents only too ready to seize the opportunity to take the higher education upon their shoulders; and this should be the work of the State in the interests of the State itself. We shall then have a higher standard and a higher level of industrial fitness, and all of us will rejoice, and not the least of all, the teachers themselves. There is a general impression abroad, that in the proposals of the new President of the Board of Education, supplementary grant is going to be devoted mainly to improving the material status of the teachers; but when you have a leading municipality like Bradford in the van of progress, anticipating such a grant coming into that area, discussing a decrease in the local educational grant, what can we think? Our ideals are readily shattered. We must see that the teachers are not exploited, because the interests of the teachers are the interests of the nation as a whole. The best weapon, in the social regeneration of the world, is the weapon of learning and knowledge.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

Mr. H. J. MAY (International Co-operative Alliance): In bringing you this morning the greetings and good wishes for the success of this Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance, I have to express to you first of all my deep regret that on this occasion, as on so many others, I am only a stop-gap and a substitute. Mr. Maxwell, our President, had hoped to be here to bring you these greetings as chief officer of the Alliance. I share

the regret which I am sure that you must all feel that illness keeps him at home. He is kept away after so many years, at a time, when—as he says in the letter informing me of his intended absence—so many questions are coming up for discussion in which for years he has taken the keenest interest. With regard to the International Co-operative Alliance, its position as a co-operative organisation at the present time is somewhat paradoxical. On the one hand its activities in many directions are suspended. It works with difficulty in almost all aspects of its activities during the war, but on the other hand we have reason for satisfaction that the principles of co-operation are going on and developing side by side with the principles of democracy. As to progress in this direction we have undoubted proof by the presence of the Russian deputation, and in the facts brought to our notice this morning. There is not the least doubt that in this terrible time the co-operative movement in every country is coming into its own—laying a foundation for the future in which we shall be a power in the State—the seed watered and growing will bring forth a crop of democratic co-operative progress in the spirit of fraternity to which Mr. Bubnoff has referred in a degree we have not previously conceived. I will not stop to enumerate our difficulties. Those who come into contact from time to time with the work of the Alliance—I am afraid we do not get full attention like questions such as the Excess Profits Duty get—realise that the general condition of the war, and the conditions of the censorship in this and other countries have prevented us from doing our work with the same freedom that we could in normal circumstances—with the same freedom with which we were able to do our work during the first eighteen months of the war. In spite of these difficulties we are able to get into touch with the various sections of the Alliance, and I have received a satisfactory record from time to time of the definite progress which is being made. In Russia four leading co-operators, amongst them the secretary and manager of a Co-operative Union, and a member of the Central Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance are members of the ministry. The same thing is true in Holland. As you already know from the speech of M. Waseige, last year, the same thing is true in France: it is equally true in Switzerland. Our Serbian friends are still able to hold together. I cannot speak of international co-operation without referring to what has been done in Serbia—this section is too often forgotten. Here our friends in co-operative matters have put up a noble fight; they have stood with a bold front to the winds of adversity. We hope that very soon they will be in a position of prosperity and progress in common with other nations in the Alliance. I need not further elaborate the fact that co-operation is coming into its own, I am tempted to say in national affairs, in every nation of the Alliance. Whilst looking forward to the future as the predominant partner see to it that you maintain that proud position. Mr. Bubnoff and Mr. Yarkoff this morning have given figures which are startling in themselves. My friend, Mr. Maddison, about a year ago sent a messenger to inquire whether I had published the correct

figures as regards Russian co-operation, as they were so startling. The figures quoted this morning give you an idea of the measure of progress of the movement in that great country. I want, in conclusion, to remind you that it had been intended that our Russian friends should be accompanied by two others. Mr. Maisky, the editor of the *Russian Co-operator*, recently arrived safely in Petrograd on a mission to that country regarding his freedom, which had been denied him for some years. A noble and faithful comrade—a man of the people and the workers, a man with the widest educational attainments and longest social ideas—Mr. Janson, who in his eagerness to get back to the land of his birth could not wait to go by the ordinary routes where there was a fair measure of safety, took himself off to Russia some weeks ago by means of an ordinary cargo boat. Alas! we have to regret that the cargo boat was torpedoed in the North Sea. Mr. Janson has joined the great majority. I imagine that if you were at a Russian Congress instead of a British one the name of Mr. Janson would have been placed on one of the galleries in memory of one of the noble fighters in the cause of freedom. Gentle as a child, gentle as he was big, he kept faithful to the end. While we have difficulties to face in the future we hope that these will easily adjust themselves. Then, when we have the liberty to go forward, I have a stronger faith and confidence than ever that the co-operative movement through the international organisation holds within its grasp a silent development, containing the possibility of economic, democratic, human progress, the possibility of an assurance of peace and human brotherhood no other movement, social, political or economical, can hold in it. While waiting for the opportunity for sending forth this effort I ask you to conceive the future in the widest possible sense and the longest view, and the smaller difficulties will easily disappear. Our President this morning in his address said: "A little child shall lead them." In every sphere people are looking for the next development in this great world tragedy—many are looking to Russia. In regard to other economic matters we say: "Keep an eye on Russia." I ask you to keep these large ideas of co-operation in mind. In things democratic Russia, in all her greatness, is a little child—and a little child shall govern. Keep your eyes on her ideals which she is putting forward in innocence, knowing that she will find liberty and guidance out of all her difficulty.

FRANCE.

The delegate appointed by the French Co-operative Union and Wholesale Society had not at this stage arrived. The PRESIDENT made the announcement that he was expected at any moment and that immediately on his arrival he should address the Congress.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: The tellers agreed upon are as follows:—Irish Executive—Mr. W. J. McGuffin; Midland Section—Mr. A. H. Jones;

Northern Section—Mr. G. Bedford; North-Western Section—Mr. F. Houghton; Scottish Section—Mr. P. Loney; Southern Section—Mr. A. Hainsworth; South-Western Section—Mr. R. Pearce; Western Section—Mr. W. H. Bryant.

CENTRAL BOARD ELECTIONS.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY proceeded to read the results of the Central Board elections which were as follows:—

IRISH EXECUTIVE.

Elected: J. C. Adams, 35; R. Fleming, 35; J. Palmer, 33; W. Gray, 32; W. G. Kane, 28; H. Archer, 26; W. J. McGuffin, 26.

Unsuccessful: L. Smith-Gordon, 11; R. M. Tweedy, 7; T. Hegarty, 4; J. Ward, 3.

MIDLAND SECTION.

Elected: G. Bastard, 306; J. Millington, 281; C. A. W. Saxton, 265; W. J. Douse, 249; W. Millerchip, 241; A. H. Jones, 240; J. G. Shacklock, 237; J. Langley, 222; J. Butcher, 218; G. Harris, 209; S. Butler, 126.

Unsuccessful: W. Warren, 94; A. Mann, 93; Mrs. M. E. Cottrell, 81; W. Abbotts, 47; H. Baynes, 31; J. Clay, 28; C. W. Brown, 26; H. Clark, 17; A. Fullwood, 15; A. Wyld, 14; J. Clewlow, 13; G. Sanders, 13; H. Sanders, 13; S. Page, 8; F. Weekley, 8; R. Dunmore, 5.

NORTHERN SECTION.

District No. 1, North Northumberland.—Elected: J. Davison, 19. Unsuccessful: J. M. Gillians, 7; H. Halliwell, 3.

District No. 2, South Northumberland.—Elected: J. C. Aiston, 57. Unsuccessful: D. Long, 7; J. Reay, 2.

District No. 3, Cumberland and Westmorland.—Elected: J. Murdoch (unopposed).

District No. 4, West Durham and South Northumberland.—Elected: W. Scott, 35. Unsuccessful: W. Brears, 3.

District No. 5, East Durham.—Elected: W. R. Rae, 84. Unsuccessful: J. Wonders, 6.

District No. 6, South Durham.—Elected: S. Galbraith, M.P., 49. Unsuccessful: A. Pinnington, 6; W. Meade, 3; J. Bell, 2.

District No. 7, South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire.—Elected: G. Bedford (unopposed).

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

District Candidates.

Airedale District.—Elected: S. R. Foster (unopposed).

Bolton District.—Elected: S. Fairbrother (unopposed).

Calderdale District.—Elected: J. Greenwood, 39. Unsuccessful: J. Morris, 10.

Cheshire and North Wales District.—Elected : W. R. Blair, 58. Unsuccessful : S. C. Hughes, 52 ; J. Seragg, 10.

Dewsbury District.—Elected : T. Way (unopposed).

East Yorkshire District.—Elected : G. Goodenough, 36. Unsuccessful : J. Nicholson, 16.

Huddersfield District.—Elected : E. Booth (unopposed).

Macclesfield, Crewe, and District.—Elected : F. Hayward, 51. Unsuccessful : J. Brassington, 13 ; G. Travis, 13 ; E. Conway, 4.

Manchester District.—Elected : A. Horricks, 67. Unsuccessful : J. Pollitt, 59 ; G. Bateman, 2.

North-East Lancashire District.—Elected : W. Dewhurst (unopposed).

North Lancashire District.—Elected : W. Gregory, 49. Unsuccessful : J. Parr, 13.

North Lonsdale District.—Elected : W. Swindlehurst (unopposed).

Oldham District.—Elected : F. Houghton (unopposed).

Rochdale District.—Elected : B. Woolfenden (unopposed).

Rossendale District.—Elected : J. R. Cunliffe, 13. Unsuccessful : J. W. Hargreaves, 11.

South Yorkshire District.—Elected : G. Major (unopposed).

Sectional Candidates.

Elected : J. Johnston, 702 ; T. Redfearn, 664 ; J. Morrell, 523 ; J. Thompson, 437. Unsuccessful : J. Sharples, 389 ; G. Briggs, 358 ; E. Whiteley, 347 ; J. O. Paynter, 324 ; J. Dimberline, 264 ; D. Pogson, 122 ; R. Hadfield, 97 ; R. Hargreaves, 80 ; Miss S. Oliver, 68 ; J. W. Bradley, 62 ; W. H. Kirkland, 60 ; A. Shaw, 25 ; G. Lucas, 19 ; J. W. Lowe, 10 ; M. Mather, 5.

SCOTTISH SECTION.

Elected : J. Deans, 373 ; J. M. Wilkie, 353 ; A. Purdie, 313 ; Jas. Allan, 311 ; G. Bisset, 304 ; J. Lucas, 284 ; G. Wilson, 277 ; J. Patterson, 271 ; Neil McLean, 268 ; P. Loney, 253.

Unsuccessful : J. Lochhead, 157 ; W. McGhie, 119 ; P. J. Agnew, 94 ; J. Muir, 68 ; W. Bell, 55 ; W. Nimmo, 47 ; W. Sempie, 44 ; R. Brownlee, 42 ; W. Anderson, 28 ; R. Stewart, 24.

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Elected : W. T. Charter, 295 ; R. Rowsell, 252 ; W. J. Salmon, 252 ; A. Hainsworth, 240 ; Mrs. M. A. Gasson, 224 ; S. Foulger, 208 ; E. King, 194 ; M. H. Clear, 193 ; J. H. Bate, 112.

Unsuccessful : R. Hibberd, 108 ; J. Maton, 78 ; T. S. Reeve, 70 ; W. J. Sunman, 65 ; Mrs. A. H. Allen, 39 ; W. H. Barton, 37 ; W. Collins, 37 ; J. L. Welch, 36 ; T. Holmes, 32 ; A. T. Taylor, 24 ; R. R. Prynn, 21 ; W. Resbury, 21 ; Mrs. A. A. Webb, 15 ; H. C. Kille, 12 ; A. Gore, 10 ; T. Hussey, 7 ; G. T. Monson, 6 ; G. A. H. Marshman, 5 ; F. X. J. Thoburn, 3.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Elected : Rev. G. A. Ramsay, 112 ; W. H. Watkins, 98 ; Mrs. M. Found, 85 ; J. T. Davis, 80 ; W. Brown, 79 ; R. Pearce, 72.

Unsuccessful : R. Andrews, 51 ; H. Westbury, 46 ; E. R. S. Mundy, 34 ; R. G. Naish, 28 ; W. J. Rose, 14 ; W. Jopling, 8.

WESTERN SECTION.

Elected . R. R. Chappell, 88 ; J. P. Davies, 79 ; W. H. Bryant, 75 ; D. Williams, 72 ; D. Evans (Tredegar), 66 ; J. R. Davies, 43.

Unsuccessful . H. Watkins, 40 ; J. Harrison, 31 ; T. Andrews, 30 ; J. L. Powell, 29 ; A. E. Price, 27 ; W. Watkins, 25 ; S. Jones, 19 ; Rev. J. F. Wilhams, 18 ; G. J. Thomas, 17 . D. Evans (Ebbw Vale), 14 ; G. R. Protheroe, 11 ; H. S. Batey, 10 ; J. Atkins, 8 ; T. G. Evans, 8 ; M. H. Perkins, 7 ; D. T. Pugh, 7.

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of the voting for members of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union for the Congress Year, 1917-8

T. WOOD, Scrutineer.

22nd May, 1917



Report of the Central Board.

1. INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1915.

The following particulars relating to industrial co-operative societies in the United Kingdom are taken from the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette* and are based upon returns made direct to the Board of Trade, supplemented by information supplied by the Co-operative Union and the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

At the end of 1915 there were at work in the United Kingdom 1,498 industrial co-operative distributive and productive societies with an aggregate membership of 3,306,319, a total share, loan and reserve capital of £70,336,849, a total trade (distributive and productive) of £198,234,187,* and a total profit—before deduction of interest on share capital—of £16,967,949.

This is a decrease on 1914 of 26 societies (partly due to amalgamations), but an increase of 210,005 in membership, £5,533,778 in capital, £33,646,667 in trade, and £1,826,989 in profit.

The total number of persons directly employed by the societies was 148,827,* and the total amount of wages paid during the year £9,635,468.

While some of the societies are engaged only in distribution and some only in production, others are engaged in both distributive and productive operations. In the following statistics, however, distribution and production are dealt with separately.

DISTRIBUTION.

At the end of 1915, 1,374 retail and two wholesale industrial societies were engaged in distribution. These societies had an aggregate membership of 3,267,321, a total share loan, and reserve capital of £63,332,749,† sales amounting to £157,538,144, and a profit on distribution—before deducting

* These figures are exclusive of the number and wages of persons employed in agriculture by industrial distributive societies and of the sales and transfers of agricultural produce by the societies, which will be dealt with in a later report.

† The figures include the capital used in the productive departments of retail societies, and the profit upon the productions of these societies, the amounts not being available separately. The capital used in the productive departments of the wholesale societies £4,601,805, and the profit £374,245, are not included.

interest on share capital—of £16,267,291, while the total number of persons directly employed in distribution by the societies was 87,351, and the total wages paid £5,530,181.

In the following Table the sales for each of the years 1905–1915 are shown separately for the retail and for the wholesale industrial societies :—

Year.	Retail Societies.		Wholesale Societies.	
	Number.	Sales.	Sales of English Society.	Sales of Scottish Society.
		£	£	£
1905	1,452	61,086,991	20,785,469	6,939,738
1906	1,441	63,353,772	22,510,035	7,140,183
1907	1,432	68,109,376	24,786,568	7,603,460
1908	1,418	69,785,798	24,902,842	7,531,126
1909	1,430	70,423,359	25,675,938	7,457,136
1910	1,421	71,861,383	26,567,833	7,738,159
1911	1,403	74,812,469	27,892,990	7,851,080
1912	1,392	78,878,658	29,732,154	8,391,258
1913	1,382	83,607,043	31,371,976	8,964,034
1914	1,385	87,979,898	34,910,813	9,425,384
1915	1,374	103,073,321	43,101,747	11,363,076

Of the total profit of £16,267,291, a sum of £14,971,692 was made by the retail societies and £1,295,599 by the two wholesale societies. In the case of the retail societies the greater part of the profit was distributed to the members as a dividend on purchases, at an average rate of 2s. 3½d. in the £1 in England and Wales, 3s. in Scotland, and 1s. 2½d. in Ireland, the average for the United Kingdom being 2s. 4½d. Compared with 1914 these rates of dividend show a decrease of 1½d. in England and Wales, 2d. in Scotland, and 1½d. for the United Kingdom, no change being shown in Ireland. Non-members usually receive dividends at one-half these rates.

The English and the Scottish wholesale societies paid to members a dividend on purchases of 6d. and 9d. in the £1 respectively.

In addition to the above societies, there were also at work in 1915 two societies, one a co-operative cab society in England, with 22 members, a capital of £1,281, a trade of £7,519, and profit of £157, and the other a co-operative motor society in Ireland, with a membership of 17, a capital of £890, trade amounting to £812, and a profit of £88.

Profit-sharing with Employees.—Of the total 1,374 retail societies, 160, employing 15,866 persons and paying wages amounting to £945,063 in their distributive departments, allotted out of the profits, a total of £40,587 to their employes as a bonus on wages, this being equal to 4·3 per cent.

PRODUCTION.

In 1915 there were 1,118 industrial co-operative societies of various types engaged in production, consisting of 996 retail and two wholesale societies having productive departments and of 120 associations for pro-

duction only, consisting of 3 cornmilling societies, 37 breadbaking and other consumers' societies, and 80 associations of workers. The total number of persons employed by these societies was 61,438, the amount of wages paid during the year was £4,104,219, and the value of productions £40,687,712. Of the 61,438 persons employed in production, 50·9 per cent were men, 30·8 per cent women, and 18·3 per cent were young persons under 18 years of age.

In the following Table the sale and transfers of each group of societies, together with the totals for all the societies, are shown for each of the years 1905-15 :—

Sales and Transfers of Productions.*

Year.	Associations of Consumers.				Associa- tions of Workers.	Grand Total of all Societies.
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.		Productive Societies.			
	Retail Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn- milling Societies.	Baking and other Consumers' Societies.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905	6,268,110	5,854,355	1,378,328	689,546	1,105,166	15,295,505
1906	6,675,646	6,804,924	965,018	700,603	1,203,659	16,349,850
1907	8,277,974	8,102,980	954,733	762,949	1,319,117	19,417,753
1908	11,085,095	8,464,021	1,048,403	880,670	1,265,796	22,743,985
1909	12,034,137	8,993,922	1,111,563	906,823	1,246,879	24,293,324
1910	12,684,996	9,399,283	1,019,569	992,940	1,382,125	25,478,913
1911	12,731,608	9,615,748	1,024,331	1,020,801	1,440,357	25,832,845
1912	13,691,188	10,630,583	1,113,729	1,137,565	1,580,309	28,153,374
1913	14,550,246	11,211,882	1,003,579	1,270,579	1,732,337	29,768,623
1914	15,551,185	12,608,101	1,035,044	1,291,950	1,778,664	32,264,944
1915	19,123,388	17,350,906	304,616†	1,508,872	2,399,930	40,687,712

The total value of productions has increased in ten years by £25,392,207, the greatest increase (205 per cent) being shown by the productive departments of the retail societies. The productive departments of the wholesale societies show an increase of 196·4 per cent, the baking and other consumers' societies an increase of 118·8 per cent, and the associations of workers 117·2 per cent.

Cornmilling societies alone show a decrease (77·9 per cent), this being largely due to the fact that in 1906 and 1915 several of the mills were absorbed by the English Wholesale Society.

The following Table analyses by groups of industries the number of persons employed, the amount of wages paid and the amount of sales and transfers of productions in 1915 :—

* In the case of the retail and wholesale societies the productions are usually transferred to the distributive department.

† In 1915 two corn milling societies were absorbed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Employés.	Wages paid during 1915.	Sales and Transfers of Productions.	No. of Employés.	Wages paid during 1915.	Sales and Transfers of Productions.
		£	£		£	£
Food and Tobacco..	15,873	1,245,952	30,196,474	161	12,978	112,690
Clothing	23,382	1,342,391	3,969,514	4,177	249,140	1,269,264
Soap, Candles, and Starch.....	1,595	105,622	1,428,464	..	..	..
Textiles	2,232	118,960	657,705	1,708	104,493	680,408
Building, Quarrying and Woodworking	5,047	489,606	1,164,308	294	21,620	52,943
Printing	2,181	140,253	385,194	1,037	78,260	207,426
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	732	55,056	194,020	418	26,028	64,332
Other Industries ..	2,534	110,832	292,103	67	3,028	12,867
Totals 1915 ..	53,576	3,608,672	38,287,782	7,862	495,547	2,399,930
Totals 1914 ..	53,923	3,293,703	30,486,280	8,172	444,867	1,778,664

A total profit of £700,413 was made upon industrial production by societies other than retail societies, the profits of the productive departments of the latter being merged in their general profit, and therefore not separately ascertainable.

Of this total, £374,245 was made by the wholesale societies, £11,419 by the cornmilling societies, £153,041 by breadmaking and other consumers' societies, and £161,708 by the associations of workers.

Profit-sharing with Employees.—Of the 1,118 societies engaged in industrial production, 130, employing 11,075 persons in production, with wages amounting to £742,114, allotted a sum of £48,698* to these employés as a bonus on wages, this being equal to about 6½ per cent. Of the total amount, £9,906 was allotted by 90 retail distributive societies, £8,990 by 4 consumers' productive societies, and £29,802 by 36 associations of workers.†

Associations of workers: Share of employes in the membership, capital, and management.—Seventy-one of the associations of workers for production, with sales amounting to £2,345,088, or 97·7 per cent of the total sales of the 80 associations at work in 1915, made returns showing the extent to which their employés and others shared in the membership, capital and management of the associations.

The returns show that the total membership of the 71 associations was 22,700, of whom 4,655, or 20·5 per cent, consisted of employés, 14,143, or 62·3 per cent, of other individuals, and 3,902, or 17·2 per cent, of other

* In addition to this, a sum of £2,479 was allotted by the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society as a bonus on wages to its employés up to 6th February, 1916, at which date the bonus system was abolished.

† Twenty-one of these societies and four additional societies (three in England and one in Scotland) allotted in addition £5,242 to Provident Funds for the benefit of their employés.

societies. Of 7,569 persons employed by the associations, 4,655, or 61·5 per cent, were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £770,012 share and loan capital, £123,952, or 16·1 per cent, belonged to employes, £284,614, or 37·0 per cent, to other individuals, and £302,727, or 39·3 per cent, to other societies. The remaining £58,749, or 7·6 per cent, consisted of loans from non-members, including bank overdrafts.

The total number of directors or committee-men of the associations was 653, of whom 257, or 39·3 per cent, were employes of the associations, 263, or 40·3 per cent, were other individual members, and 133, or 20·4 per cent, were representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

2. GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

The year that has passed since the last Congress has been one of the most serious and eventful in the history of the world. Notwithstanding the great upheaval caused by the war, the number of our young men who have left their usual peaceful occupations for the more strenuous one of the defence of their country, their homes and families, the difficulties experienced in obtaining supplies, and the general increase in the cost of living, the co-operative movement has been most active, and shows exceptional increases. Much more would, without doubt, have been accomplished in the direction of increased membership and trade, but for the inability on the part of the societies to obtain the necessary supplies.

Societies have been requested to supply, as usual, particulars of their operations for the past year, and for this purpose a form of the return similar to that issued by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, has been sent out to all societies.

Owing to the shortage of staffs in societies' offices, we have experienced greater difficulties than usual in obtaining the desired information. At the time of going to press the returns have not been received from a large number of societies, and we regret therefore that it has been found impossible to complete the detailed statistics for inclusion in the report to Congress.

It is intended, however, to publish the full particulars in the Congress Report when issued in the autumn. We endeavoured to give a few of the more important items based upon the returns to hand.

The total sales certainly seem likely to create a record, but a great part of this increase is undoubtedly due to increased prices, particularly of many of the articles of everyday consumption. After making due allowance for this increase in prices, however, we feel there is every cause for satisfaction, and that the movement has continued to demonstrate its ability to act in defence of the consumer.

Year.	Total Number of Societies.	Number of Societies to which these Figures Relate.	Number of Members.	Shares. £	Trade. £	Surplus. £
1915	1,497	1,491	3,310,524	47,202,875	165,034,195	17,008,956
1916	1,481	1,480	3,566,739	51,635,298	197,235,322	19,145,021
Increase....	—	—	226,215	4,432,363	32,201,127	2,141,065
Decrease...	16	11	—	—	—	—

ANALYSIS OF GENERAL RESULTS.

		Societies.	Members.	Shares. £	Trade. £	Surp'us. £
Wholesale Societies	1915 ..	3 ..	1,678 ..	2,799,096 ..	54,895,430 ..	1,642,357
" "	1916 ..	3 ..	1,838 ..	3,192,046 ..	67,212,360 ..	2,390,577
Retail Societies ...	1915 ..	1,375 ..	3,264,811 ..	43,141,970 ..	102,557,779 ..	14,960,086
" "	1916 ..	1,362 ..	3,520,227 ..	47,153,203 ..	121,628,550 ..	16,330,079
Productive Societies	1915 ..	103 ..	34,912 ..	842,691 ..	3,860,052 ..	320,778
" "	1916 ..	101 ..	35,142 ..	869,210 ..	4,461,491 ..	335,842
Supply Associations	1915 ..	4 ..	8,473 ..	370,447 ..	3,289,860 ..	54,151
" "	1916 ..	4 ..	8,560 ..	370,532 ..	3,402,308 ..	92,328
Special Societies ..	1915 ..	7 ..	482 ..	25,706 ..	341,885 ..	16,051
" "	1916 ..	6 ..	420 ..	22,936 ..	408,110 ..	27,311

3. WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

(a) ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

Beyond the bare figures no special account of the progress of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited has, in previous years, appeared in the report of the Central Board. But even the statistics this year are perhaps more interesting than usual, in so far as they indicate an unequalled advancement from a trade and commercial point of view. In fact, 1916 was in some respects remarkable. This will be indicated later on.

It will be observed from the usual statistical table that, despite all difficulties created by the war, the trade of the Co-operative Wholesale Society again showed a considerable growth upon the previous year, representing a jump of 21·1 per cent. There was also an encouraging increase with regard to the turnover of the productive works, which came to £16,263,500, as compared with £12,812,956 in 1915. It must be admitted that some of this increase arose from the advanced prices of commodities consequent upon the war conditions of Europe. Apart from that, however, there was a substantial increment in the volume of trade and production from Co-operative Wholesale Society fields, factories, and workshops. We can best measure the value and extent of the progress by comparison. For instance, last year the goods supplied to societies from Co-operative Wholesale Society productive works represented a greater sum than the entire sales of this business organisation in 1900, when they were calculated at £16,043,889. During the past ten years, the total value of the sales has been

much more than doubled. It is worthy of note that, whilst the sales of the Co-operative Wholesale Society progressed at the rate of from £1,000,000 to £2,000,000 a year (and occasionally less than £1,000,000) during the past thirty years, there was an increase of £8,190,934 from 1914 to 1915, and of £9,128,323 from 1915 to 1916. It may be both interesting and informing to record the figures of the Co-operative Wholesale Society trade in a more detailed form than has been done in these pages before. Here they are :—

STATEMENT SHOWING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE YEARS INDICATED.

(1) TOTAL SALES.

Departments.	Year 1915.	Year 1916.	Comparison.	
			Increase.	Rate per cent.
	£	£	£	
Grocery and Provisions	35,253,050	43,255,720	8,002,670	22·7
Coal.....	1,001,796	1,080,382	78,586	7·8
Drapery	3,057,817	3,595,168	537,291	17·5
Woolens and Ready-mades ..	840,004	852,041	12,037	1·4
Boot and Shoe	1,516, 93	1,874,939	358,746	23·6
Furnishing	1,252,682	1,387,009	134,327	10·7
Sundries—Shipping, Building, and Engineering	180,145	184,811	4,666	2·5
Grand total	43,101,747	52,230,070	9,128,323	21·1

(2) PRODUCTIVE WORKS SUPPLIES. (Included in above).

Departments.	Year 1915.	Year 1916.	Comparison.	
			Increase.	Rate per cent.
	£	£	£	
Grocery and Provisions	10,714,632	14,084,390	3,369,758	31·4
Drapery	509,073	546,672	37,599	7·3
Woolens and Ready-mades...	49,992	482,492	* 9,500	1·9
Boot and Shoe	865,586	912,218	46,32	5·2
Furnishing	231,673	237,728	6,055	2·6
Grand total	12,312,956	16,263,500	3,450,544	26·9

* Decrease.

These figures should appeal to the mass of co-operators, and allied social and economic forces, as a basis for the greater distribution of the Co-operative Wholesale Society principle of capital and labour after the war. This central co-operative trading and manufacturing body has now existed

for over fifty years. Its career commenced in a humble way in 1863, almost twenty years after the inauguration of the consumers' new plan of co-operation at Rochdale, or six years before the first co-operative Congress held under the auspices of the Co-operative Union. Of necessity, its first functions were mainly concerned with the wholesale purchase and distribution of goods. The productive works were first bought about ten years after the enrolment of the society. Since then there have been developments in various directions in the domain of agriculture or manufacture. We need not dwell further upon the history of the extending productive operations, as we shall be able to utilise the space at our disposal, even with the important extensions of the past year or so. A brief and pleasant summary of the constitution, purpose, enterprise, and magnitude of the Co-operative Wholesale Society may be obtained from a booklet issued by the new Publicity Department, established in 1916. There have been many striking developments of late which have aroused special public interest in the Co-operative Wholesale Society at home and abroad. English and Colonial fields have been acquired for the promotion of agricultural produce; new factories have been erected, and others purchased for turning raw material into manufactured commodities.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LAND PURCHASES.

Let us review first of all the recent vigorous land buying policy. After having had this in mind for many years and waiting and preparing for the right period, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, jointly with the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, began to increase its holdings of land for tea growing in autumn of 1915. And what was the position at the end of 1916? Estates for the cultivation of tea comprised 17,519 acres in Ceylon and Southern India. Offices and warehouses have been purchased in Colombo. Although the next item does not come into year 1916, but 1917, we may pass from tropical India to the colder climes of Canada, where the two Wholesale Societies have effected a most important development by the purchase of 10,000 acres of land, for wheat growing, at Rosetown, near Saskatoon, in the extensive Province of Saskatchewan. From our particularly loyal Colony of Canada we are taken to the West Coast of Africa, where the Co-operative Wholesale Society has purchased land and a warehouse at Accra, Central West African premises at Freetown, Sierra Leone, and a trading centre at Lagos, in Nigeria, and so on. We ought to add, in connection with these new acquisitions, the timely enterprise of taking over the finely equipped African Oil Mills, at Liverpool, to deal with raw material (palm kernels, &c.) from West Africa, and provide cakes for the feeding of cattle at home, and oils used in connection with the soap works at Irlam, Dunston, and Silvertown, and also the prospective margarine manufactory near Manchester. These include some of our most effective purchases abroad.

BRITISH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

At home, the greater possession of agricultural fields began in July of 1916. Firstly came the transaction whereby 1,211 acres were acquired in

the vicinity of Crewe, Cheshire; this was subsequently added to by the purchase of an adjoining 2,236 acres, making in all 3,447 acres. Other land purchases were made, including 4,012 acres near Goole, at the junction of the Trent, the Ouse, and the Humber; 2,379 acres in proximity with over 800 acres previously owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society at Wisbech. The total acreage now under the control of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in the counties of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire, Herefordshire, Cheshire, and Shropshire, is 12,400. These fertile plains and valleys will be used for dairy produce, for the growing of grain and vegetables. So much, therefore, for the policy of the co-operative ownership of agricultural land, which marks the beginning of a new era in British farming, and helps to provide an effective basis to the recently established Agricultural Department. Added to the farming of land, the Co-operative Wholesale Society has also entered the key industry of coal mining, and now owns a colliery in Northumberland.

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

This policy of extending the ownership of coal and agricultural fields has been accompanied by the strengthening of manufacturing resources. The grey-cloth shed at Bury and the coloured mill at Radcliffe have been supplemented by the purchase of a mill at Chorley for the manufacture of finer qualities of cloth. Cotton doubling has been enlarged at Radcliffe, and plans accepted for an extension which will double the number of looms and other mechanical processes essential to the complete manufacture of coloured fabrics, including dyeing. With regard to the supply of woollen goods, the Co-operative Wholesale Society has taken over the mill of the Delph Woollen Manufacturing Society, near Manchester; a site has been procured at Diggle (Yorkshire) for the manufacture of men's wear. The factory at Huthwaite is to be doubled to extend the making of hose and knitted goods. Other developments include a shirt factory at Cardiff; a factory at Birmingham for making blouses, pinafores, &c.; a six-storey mill at Sheffield, for bluetie overalls; new establishment at Kettering for the manufacture of children's wear; an extension at Pelaw in shirt and kersey production.

We cannot include all developments within the past year or so. The Leeds brush factory has been supplemented by a new one at Wymondham, Norfolk; a site has been obtained for the erection of a new cabinet works at Brislington, Bristol. On the engineering side of the Co-operative Wholesale Society activities extensions have been arranged in connection with the ironworks at Keighley, and the bucket and fender works at Dudley. Respecting other necessities, a margarine works has been erected in Irlam. At the time of writing some of these new developments have been completed; others are awaiting machinery, and the permission of the Ministry of Munitions to proceed towards erection or completion. Recent extensions also include the purchase of a vinegar brewery at Clayton, Manchester, to add to the output of the one at Middleton.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PRESS AGENCY.

In connection with the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Publicity Department the Co-operative Press Agency has been established, and is now recognised by the newspaper world as one of the national journalistic organisations of the country. Its services—organised by members of the Institute of Journalists and the National Union of Journalists—are available for the movement generally, and it has already been helpful in securing wider publicity for co-operative news than has hitherto been obtainable.

In connection with this an Advertising Agency has been established, and this has carried out several schemes of joint advertising for distributive societies; and is acting as agent for a large number of societies in placing their advertisements in local papers. This trading feature of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Publicity Department should be of considerable value to the movement.

FOREIGN DEPUTATIONS.

What else is there to record? The operations of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, of course, become more world-wide. The production of raw material and the provision of ample trading facilities necessitate business investigation in many parts of the world. Hence, during 1916, five deputations were organised to visit various commercial and industrial centres in the new and old world.

MEMBERSHIP AND CAPITAL.

Space forbids the enumeration of all the warehouses, dépôts, wharves, productive works, &c., of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland (jointly with the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society), in Denmark, Spain, New York, Canada, India, and West Africa. At the end of 1916, the share capital (paid up), was £2,653,774; loans and deposits, £4,445,227. The membership of the Co-operative Wholesale Society consisted of 1,189 societies, representing 2,653,227 individuals. We cannot close this chapter of recent developments without alluding to the place of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in the nation with regard to the war, and the war's necessities. Briefly, at the conclusion of the last War Loan, on 16th February, the Co-operative Wholesale Society holding in the War Loan amounted to over two million pounds sterling, of which nearly one million was new money. In addition to this, the various co-operative societies, trade unions, &c., invested through the Co-operative Wholesale Society's bank nearly two millions, of which over one million was new money. The total amount invested through the Co-operative Wholesale Society's bank was thus over four millions, including almost two millions new money. Apart from the War Loan, the Co-operative Wholesale Society had other investments in Government War Funds, such as Exchequer Bonds and War Expenditure Certificates, the total Government securities amounting to over four million pounds.

Co-operative Wholesale Society male employees in all parts of the Kingdom, from textile mills, boot and shoe factories, flour mills, and factories, workshops, warehouses, and offices of every description, have joined the military or naval forces during the great European war crisis. Many have paid to the great sacrifice. The enlistment numbered 4,393. To all these dutiful sons of the nation the Co-operative Wholesale Society magnanimously allowed full wages, less army or navy pay, during service with the colours; the total sum paid in this way to the end of 1916 being £265,413. Perhaps the story of this liberality and sacrifice will be told elsewhere. The main object is to indicate here what a stimulating social, industrial, and economic force the Co-operative Wholesale Society has been quite recently in the development towards the Co-operative Commonwealth.

(b) Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited was registered in April of 1868 and commenced business in September of the same year.

Distribution.—The business when started was engaged in distribution of grocery goods only to retail societies then in existence, but from time to time additions were made and societies were supplied with drapery, boots, and furnishing.

The trade for the first year (1869) amounted to £81,094. For the year 1916 this trade had increased to £14,499,037. 2s. 3d., the increase for 1916 having been a record one, not only in the total turnover, but in the turnover of all classes of goods supplied by the society.

Difficulties on account of the war had to be faced in conducting the business, in the procuring of stocks and raw material for manufacturing purposes; difficulties which are day by day becoming more accentuated. Labour difficulties have likewise had to be met and these also are becoming more serious, and forces a dilution of labour in many departments, but in spite of these, business has been carried on with a minimum of complaints and the needs of the societies have been met for the most part in a satisfactory manner.

Production.—Production was commenced in 1881 by the starting of a factory for the production of shirts. This small venture proved successful, and has been followed year by year by the establishment of factories of various kinds, and up to the end of 1916 41 productive departments have been established and six service departments, *i.e.*, engineering, motor engineering, building, two carting departments, and electrical department.

For the first complete year (1883) the transfers from productive departments amounted to £4,094, while last year (1916) the transfers from the 41 productive departments amounted to £4,708,103. 18s. 10d., and the value of the work done by the service departments amounted to £252,630. 0s. 5d.

Capital of the Society.—The capital of the society is raised by £1 shares, each society being required to take at least one share for each individual member in the society.

In addition deposits are received from societies at various rates of interest. At the end of the first year (1869) the total amount of all classes of investments in the society amounted to £5,174. At the end of 1916 the amount invested by the retail societies in the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society amounted to £5,522,264, this sum including reserve and insurance funds. At 1916 the number of shares subscribed by societies was 501,604, and this may be taken as a fair criterion of the members of retail societies in Scotland which are members of the Wholesale Society.

Reserves and Depreciation.—During the whole history of the society due attention has been paid to the depreciation of buildings, plant, and machinery, and also provision to reserve funds. At the end of 1916 reserve and insurance funds of the society amounted to £880,568. 11s. 5d. Buildings, plant, and machinery have been depreciated and stand in the books at less than one-third of their original cost.

In addition to the manufacturing establishments, the society opened buying dépôts in West Africa, and at Winnipeg, Canada. The West African dépôt has not been long in existence, but the dépôt at Winnipeg, established in 1906, has been a valuable adjunct to the flour milling industry of the society. Last year 3,584,930 bushels of wheat had been shipped from Winnipeg dépôt of a total money value of £1,094,795. 7s. 11d., and in conjunction with the dépôt at Winnipeg 13 elevators have been erected which have acted as feeders to the Winnipeg dépôt; the total purchases at the elevators for the year amounted to £215,450. 14s. 2d.

A further extension has been made recently by the purchase jointly with the Co-operative Wholesale Society of the Weitzen farm of 10,000 acres in the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada, and it is the intention to erect additional elevators in this district.

Future Prospects.—The prospects for the future are bright. In the distributive departments societies are becoming very much more loyal, and several of the societies that have not hitherto been members have shown an inclination to become affiliated. Several projects are in prospect for extension of the productive departments of the business, and in most cases these extensions will in all probability be carried out in co-operation with the English Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Relationship.—The relationship of this society with the English Co-operative Wholesale Society has during the history of the society been most cordial and this relationship is always becoming closer. The Tea Department in London has been worked in a joint partnership for a number of years with conspicuous success. This has been extended recently to the working of the joint insurance business, and these relationships are in all probability likely to become closer in the immediate future, and the result it is hoped will be a great extension of the co-operative movement, not only in the home trade, but it is expected in foreign trade with co-operative institutions on the Continent and other foreign countries.

(c) IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

The work of getting supplies through the co-operative societies for feeding the troops in Ireland has been carried out with great success and economy by the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society, working in conjunction with the local co-operative societies.

	Society Members.	Shares Ordinary.	Pref. Members.	Shares Pref.	Loans.	Sales.	Interest on Capital.	Surplus.
1915	219	£5,042	108	£7,115	£3,109	£375,379	£755	£3,141
1916	264	7,139	117	8,680	3,000	470,876	800	4,989
Increase	45	£2,097	9	£1,566	..	£104,479	£45	£1,848
Decrease	..	..	..	..	109	..	..	..

SUMMARY OF THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

	Society Members.	Shares. £	Loans. £	Sales. £	Interest on Capital. £	Surplus. £
1915.						
The English Wholesale.....	1,195 ..	2,284,758 ..	4,356,841 ..	43,101,747 ..	109,996 ..	1,197,105
The Scottish Wholesale	264 ..	502,181 ..	3,962,452 ..	11,418,354 ..	24,445 ..	442,111
The Irish Wholesale.....	219 ..	12,157 ..	3,109 ..	375,379 ..	755 ..	3,141
	1,678	2,799,096	8,322,402	54,895,480	135,196	1,642,357
1916.						
The English Wholesale	1,189 ..	2,653,774 ..	4,445,517 ..	52,230,074 ..	121,323 ..	1,640,328
The Scottish Wholesale	262 ..	522,453 ..	4,042,183 ..	14,502,410 ..	25,931 ..	745,260
The Irish Wholesale.....	264 ..	15,819 ..	49,699 ..	479,876 ..	800 ..	4,989
	1,715	3,192,046	8,537,399	67,212,360	148,054	2,390,577
		£	£	£	£	£
1915	1,678 ..	2,799,096 ..	8,322,402 ..	54,895,480 ..	135,196 ..	1,642,357
1916	1,715 ..	3,192,046 ..	8,537,399 ..	67,212,360 ..	148,054 ..	2,390,577
Increase ..	37 ..	392,950 ..	214,997 ..	12,316,880 ..	12,858 ..	748,220
Decrease ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—

4. DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

	Societies.	Members.	Shares. £	Loans. £	Sales. £	Surplus. £
1915	1,375 ..	3,265,011 ..	43,141,970 ..	5,706,626 ..	102,557,779 ..	14,960,086
1916	1,362 ..	3,520,227 ..	47,153,203 ..	6,169,149 ..	121,628,550 ..	16,330,079
Increase	— ..	255,216 ..	4,011,233 ..	462,523 ..	19,070,771 ..	1,369,993
Decrease ..	13 ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	— ..	—

5. CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION.

We have endeavoured to obtain the usual information from the Productive Societies in regard to their progress, also from the two Wholesale Societies in respect to their various productive departments; full details

will be given later in the report of the Congress. We submit a summary of the returns and analysis which appeared in last year's report, and the comparison for 1916:—

(a) SUMMARISED STATEMENT.

	Number of Societies.	Number of Emp'yes.	Capital Employed.	Trade during Year.	Surplus	Defi- ciency.
			£	£	£	£
Ireland 1915	1	..	..	..	..	..
" 1916	..	..	..	..	..	..
England and Wales 1915	87	8013	901756	2462958	175319	3882
" 1916	87	7646	965007	2783956	14779	1301
Scotland 1915	15	2644	786362	1397094	145469	..
" 1916	14	2634	806597	1677505	149063	..
English Wholesale 1915	1	20432	3591442	12995914	295111	..
" 1916	1	18673	4193145	16867509	374780	..
Scottish Wholesale 1915	1	7215	1078529	3697821	105272	..
" 1916	1	6867	1309962	4708104	103795	..
Total 1915	105	38304	6358089	20453787	721161	3882
" 1916	103	35824	7274711	25587104	812417	1301

(b) SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIES.

		1915. £	1916. £
Cotton, Linen, Silk and Wool	{ England	888,091 ..	864,158
	{ Scotland	197,362 ..	211,020
	{ Wholesale Societies	1,326,096 ..	1,315,940
		2,411,549 ..	2,421,118
Boots, Shoes, and Leather	{ England	764,602 ..	920,544
	{ Wholesale Societies	1,224,400 ..	1,294,921
		1,989,002 ..	2,215,465
Metal and Hardware	{ England	58,736 ..	72,503
	{ Wholesale Society	80,056 ..	85,493
		138,792 ..	158,001
Woodworking	{ England	39,986 ..	42,331
	{ Wholesale Societies	192,431 ..	198,438
		232,417 ..	240,769
Building and Quarrying	England	20,232 ..	13,406
Printing and Bookbinding ..	{ England	203,494 ..	251,654
	{ Scotland	19,132 ..	21,094
	{ Wholesale Societies	343,453 ..	420,548
		566,079 ..	693,296

		1915. £	1916. £
Corn Milling	{ England	188,764 ..	246,526
	{ Wholesale Societies	8,911,860 ..	11,828,875
		9,100,624 ..	12,075,401
Baking	{ England	73,812 ..	93,908
	{ Scotland	1,155,608 ..	1,420,009
		1,229,420 ..	1,513,917
Laundries	{ England	67,404 ..	87,683
	{ Scotland	24,992 ..	25,332
		92,396 ..	113,020
Various	{ England	157,837 ..	191,318
	{ Wholesale Societies	4,515,439 ..	5,901,393
		4,673,276 ..	6,092,711
Total, 1915			20,453,787
„ 1916			25,537,104
	Increase		5,083,317

6. FARMING BY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

(See Appendix I., page 258.)

(a) FARMING BY WHOLESALE OR DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

Section.	ACREAGE.		Capital.	Rent.		Surplus	Deficiency.	Number of Societies.
	Owned.	Rented.		Interest	Rent where rented.			
			£	£	£	£	£	
Midland	5,396	3,180½	160,920	5,328	4,926	7,073	890	27
Northern	511	1,607½	39,074	757	2,929	3,337	..	17
North-Western..	3,484½	793½	181,974	5,727	1,547	5,166	1,322	33
Scottish	1,190	670	72,525	2,425	3,431	6,196	..	6
Southern	1,035½	320½	45,922	1,739	542	1,521	508	9
South-Western..	2,559½	354	67,919	1,437	767	852	..	4
Western	110	112	300	15	181	85	42	2
Total....	14,286½	7,037½	568,694	17,498	14,323	24,230	2,762	98

(b) FARMING SOCIETIES.

Section.	ACREAGE.		Rent.			Surplus	Deficiency.	Number of Societies.
	Owued.	Rented.	Capital.	Interest	Rent where rented.			
			£	£	£	£	£	
Southern	222	1,692	76	111	178	..	1
Western	575	3,000	..	403	1,139	..	1
Total	797	4,692	76	514	1,317	..	2

7. AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

The increased interest in food production in the past two years has had a marked effect on the co-operative agricultural movement and the progress recorded is much greater than might be gathered from the net gain of seven additional societies affiliated to the Agricultural Organisation Society on 31st December, 1915, compared with the same date of the previous year. The statistics given below are taken from the report of the A.O.S. for 1916, and cover the activities of that body up to the end of 1915. Since they were made up there has been an increase in the number of societies affiliated of over seventy, most of these being allotment societies or war food societies.

Two new developments in connection with the A.O.S. recently may be mentioned. One of these is the Farmers' Central Trading Board, in the formation of which the A.O.S. has assisted, and which is intended to act as a wholesale supplies and trading organisation for the agricultural co-operative societies. The other is the women's institutes movement, whose aim is to bring together women of all classes with a view, on the one hand, of increasing the national food supplies, and, on the other, of brightening the village life of the country. The women's institutes movement has made very rapid progress, and there are now over 60 institutes.

1915.	Purchase of Requirements.	Egg and Poultry.	Dairy.	Co-op. Auctions and Fruit Societies.	Small Holdings.	Miscellaneous Credit Societies.	Total.
No. of Societies ..	213	29	38	27	177	66	550
No. of Members ..	26,241	9,996	4,086	2,029	15,975	4,504	55,831
Turnover	£2,430,397	£87,954	£722,620	£140,363	£12,434	£15,192	£3,42 ,960

SCOTLAND.

The Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society has been ascertaining particulars regarding the operations of societies and the effect which the adoption of co-operative methods has had in increasing food productions. All the reports received bear emphatic evidence that this method has been most beneficial.

Since the introduction of co-operative schemes for the collection and marketing of poultry produce, more fowls are being kept, and greater attention is being paid to the improvement of breeds, improved housing and marketing generally. Considerably higher prices have been obtained through this system of marketing, and the produce is put on the market much fresher and to better advantage (these remarks apply to pre-war times, and not to the abnormal prices at present obtaining). As a consequence, increased production has resulted, varying, according to the reports, from 20 to 75 per cent (this applies to every district in Scotland where Co-operative Egg Collecting Societies have been established).

In co-operative dairying the reports show that as a result of adopting co-operative methods of collecting and marketing, it is now found that under these schemes milk production on the farm can be conducted under less irksome conditions for the farmer, his wife and family, and employés; the risk of making bad debts is practically eliminated. The farmers, their wives and families, have now more time to devote to the better management of dairy stock generally, of poultry, and other productive work.

As an instance of the extent to which the production of milk has increased, one society reports that the total production of milk by the thirty members of the society in 1909 was 156,777 gallons, whereas in 1915 the production from the same thirty farmers was 195,894 gallons. In other districts similar increases are being made, 20 to 25 per cent being about the average.

The formation of stock improvement societies has proved a great boon to the smaller class of farmers and small-holders, and greatly improved stock has resulted from the operations of these schemes.

During these difficult times great help has been rendered to the affiliated societies, in assisting them to secure supplies of feeding stuffs, manures, implements, seeds, and other requirements, and grateful acknowledgment is made of the help and guidance given by the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society.

The number of agricultural co-operative societies affiliated to the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society on 31st December, 1916, was 152. This number was made up as follows:—

Supply of Requirements and Sale of Produce	66
Egg and Poultry	62
Stock Improvement Societies	9
Dairy Societies	14
Fishery Society	1

IRELAND.

On the 31st March, 1916, there were 991 co-operative societies in Ireland affiliated to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and having a membership of 102,591. In this total there are included credit societies, which like similar societies in Great Britain, are registered under the Friendly Societies, and not under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. The decrease in the number of these credit societies is due to two facts:—First, that in many districts the work which the credit societies set out to do has been fully accomplished by it now, and the society, consequently, has no need to continue as a separate body. Secondly, because the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has changed its policy with regard to credit societies, believing that the time has come when general purposes societies, with a credit department if necessary, should be the type most useful to the country. Accordingly the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society is confident that its new policy will bring added strength to the movement. It is of interest to note in connection with the credit societies, that all the loans granted by State departments are now being successfully paid off without any difficulty, the department having as a measure of economy decided to recall them.

The societies affiliated to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society may be classified as follows:—

Dairy Societies	344
Agricultural Societies (for purposes of agricultural requirements)	219
Poultry Societies	13
Home Industry Societies	9
Miscellaneous Societies	27
Pig and Cattle Societies.....	50
Flax Societies	7
Federations	2
Credit Societies.....	225
Auxiliary Dairy Societies	95

991

Since the outbreak of war the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society has used all its efforts to aid increased tillage. To this end, societies were formed to purchase the more expensive forms of machinery, and hired them out to their members, thus enabling small farmers to make use of labour-saving machines, which individually they could not have purchased. Existing agricultural societies and creameries are encouraged to add this branch to their other businesses.

The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society is taking a large part in the new campaign for food production, and is acting in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, an event of good omen for Irish co-operation.

The Irish and the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Societies perform the same function in Ireland as the Scottish, and the Agricultural Organisation

societies in England and Wales. The Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was formed in 1894, the English Organisation Society in 1901, and the Scottish Society in 1905.

8. SMALL SAVINGS OR PENNY BANKS.

Below we give particulars abstracted from statistical returns supplied by societies relating to the Small Savings Departments for the year 1915 and the particulars for 1916.

Section.	No. of Societies. 1915.	No. of Societies. 1916.	Amount of Deposits. 1915. £	Amount of Deposits. 1916. £
Ireland	5	6	2,460	2,777
Midland	108	115	355,718	468,979
Northern	66	72	142,814	179,733
North-Western	243	262	961,503	1,042,259
Scottish.....	101	105	287,807	351,380
Southern	102	124	255,042	305,455
South-Western	43	47	74,257	83,978
Western	53	50	88,462	109,630
	<u>721</u>	<u>781</u>	<u>£2,168,063</u>	<u>2,547,191</u>

9. CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE.

The following is a comparison of the business of the Co-operative Insurance Society Limited—the Joint Insurance department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited—for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916, and a statement of its financial position at 31st December, 1916.

The expense of Collective Life Assurance, with the new scale of benefits now in force, is only 3 per cent of the premiums.

COLLECTIVE LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	No. of Societies Assured.	Premiums Received.	No. of Members of Assured Societies.	Claims Paid.	
				No.	Amount.
					£
1914	462	107,109	912,301	15,236	97,077
1915	506	129,686	1,131,844	19,886	124,221
1916	581	179,700	1,380,139	23,843	147,165

LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS (INDIVIDUALS).

Year.	ORDINARY.			SPECIAL.			INDUSTRIAL.		
	Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.	
		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
			£			£			£
1914	33,188	107	11,238	14,831	359	3,228	4,666	171	1,477
1915	38,155	107	8,978	17,353	599	6,001	5,118	235	2,626
1916	45,662	172	16,587	20,604	661	7,473	6,550	297	2,967

In 1916 £1,978. 11s. 8d. was received for Annuities granted.

FIRE, AND ACCIDENT AND GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	FIRE.			ACCIDENT AND GENERAL.		
	Premiums Received. †	Claims Paid.		Premiums Received. †	Claims Paid.	
		No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
			£			£
1914	58,649	1,810	6,313	15,208	1,002	4,861
1915	64,173	1,816	15,282	20,395	1,442	6,977
1916	65,945	1,800	15,022	25,561	1,845	10,245

† Accident, Burglary, Fidelity, Plate Glass, Motor Vehicle and Live Stock Insurances are included in the Accident and General Account.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Year.	Premiums Received.	Claims Paid.			
		Fatal.	Non-Fatal.	No.	Amount.
	£				£
1914	31,824	30	2,356	2,386	16,660
1915	32,864	22	2,375	2,397	16,381
1916	34,111	21	2,319	2,340	16,085

In 1916 the total premium income in all departments amounted to £380,123. 4s. 2d.

The claims paid were 31,033 in number, amounting to a total of £215,545. 3s. 4d.

INSURANCE FUNDS.

Year.	Life (Four Sections).	Fire.	Employers' Liability.	Accident and General.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1914	284,909	167,990	41,886	23,030	522,815
1915	323,004	189,760	48,754	35,649	597,167
1916	372,853	197,894	53,356	40, 25	664,128

Out of the profit and loss account, after paying interest on capital at the usual rate of 5 per cent dividends of 2s. in the £ to members and 1s. in the £ to non-members upon their fire insurance premiums in 1915 were declared.

10. JOURNALS OF THE MOVEMENT.

We have not this year issued to societies generally the circular of inquiry for particulars as to journals and records published by them, but only to those printed below. It is assumed that with one or two exceptions the societies mentioned in last year's list still issue their records.

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY PAPERS AND RECORDS.

	No. of Societies Supplied.	Circulation.
* "Co-operative Union Review" .....	.....	6,000
* "Co-operative Educator" .....	.....	6,000
The "Co-operative News"	950	91,000
The "Millgate Monthly"	585	12,000
"Our Circle"	430	22,000
"Scottish Co-operator"	204	28,650
"Co-partnership"	—	8,000
† "Co-operation in Agriculture"	—	—
The "Co-operative Employé"	728	13,000
The "Wheatsheaf"	487	614,000
The "Producer"	724	20,500

* Issued quarterly. † Suspended during the war.

It will be noticed from the foregoing list that, notwithstanding war conditions, there has been a welcome addition to the literature of the movement during the past year, in the publication of *The Producer* by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the *Co-operative Educator* by the Educational Committee of the Co-operative Union.

There was a distinct need for the journals of the character of the two named, and we believe that up to the present they have met with the appreciation and support of the co-operative movement.

11. NEW SOCIETIES REGISTERED IN 1916.

(See Appendix II., page 261.)

A list of the new societies registered in 1916 will be found in the Appendix. The total number for England and Wales is 99, an increase of 16 over 1915; the new societies are of a varied character, as will be seen by this summary:—

(a) ENGLAND AND WALES.

The societies are classified as follows :—

Distributive	5
Productive	4
Small Holdings and Allotments	21
Agricultural and Agricultural Trading	26
Horticultural	1
Clubs	12
Tenants' Housing	1
Egg and Poultry	13
Various—Unclassified	16
	—
	99

The distributive societies are as follows :—Carnarvon, Crayford Works, Dunster Williton and District, Llangerniew, and Stubshaw Cross.

The four productive societies are :—Norbury Laundries, Northumberland Co-operative Bakeries, Norton Cutlery (Sheffield), and Worthing Toy Factory.

(b) SCOTLAND.

Thirty-four new societies have been registered in Scotland during 1916, which are classified as follows :—

Agricultural and Dairy	31
Land and Garden Suburb	1
Various—Unclassified	2
	—
	34

(c) IRELAND.

Forty-six new societies have been registered in Ireland during 1916. They are classified as follows :—

Distributive	5
Agricultural	27
Creameries	5
Milling	4
Various—Unclassified	5
	—
	46

The distributive societies are :—Clanwilliam, Drumreany, Dungannon and District, Foynes, and Tralee.

12. SOCIETIES DISSOLVED OR AMALGAMATED IN 1916.

(See Appendix III., page 268.)

From a perusal of the list of societies removed from the register during 1916, which list is contained in the Appendix, it will be observed that 19

societies have amalgamated or transferred their engagements to other societies, whilst a number are shown as "final winding-up notices having been received," the names of several of these have appeared in previous lists. Of the 23 distributive societies that have ceased to exist 16 have either amalgamated or transferred engagements to other societies, in these cases the business is still being carried on.

Distributive	23
Productive	5
Small Holdings and Allotments	24
Agricultural, &c	17
Creameries	5
Clubs	14
Land and Garden Suburbs	11
Tenants' Housing	5
Bank	3
Loan	2
Flax (1) and Bee Keepers (1)	2
Egg and Poultry	4
Pig and Cattle Suppliers	50
Various (unclassified)	20
	<hr/> 185

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION LIMITED.

13. SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO THE UNION during 1916.

The societies whose names appear in the list below have become affiliated to the Union since last Congress :—

Ireland : Drumreany, Dungannon, and Foynes.

Midland Section : Brassington and Radcliffe-on-Trent.

Northern Section : Bearpark Colliery and Clive Industrial (Blyth).

North-Western Section : Carleton, Carnarvon, Central Working Men's (Golcar), Hadfield and Hollingworth Coal, Heath and Williamthorpe, Junction House (Slaithwaite), Milnrow Conservative, Peak Forest, Tunstead, Wakefield Borough, and Whitehough.

Scottish Section : Darnagavil, Freuchie Reform, and Plains.

Southern Section : Leighton Buzzard.

Western Section : Bryn Colliery and Porthcawl.

14. SOCIETIES WHICH HAVE WITHDRAWN during 1916.

The undermentioned societies have ceased to be members of the Union for the reasons stated :—

- By amalgamation or transfer of engagements—Alton and District, Bramshaw, Cheadle (Staffs.), Hexham and Acomb, Juniper Green, Leatherhead, Low Moor (Union Street), Ottery St. Mary, Stenhousemuir Baking, and Treboeth.
- By ceasing to exist—Aberavon, Derby Umbrella, Irish Builders, Hotel and Restaurant (London), Millbrook, Pioneer Fishing, and Ulster.
- By being struck off—Co-operative Brotherhood Trust Extension (London), Teesdale Associated Farmers.

15. SUMMARY OF MEMBERS.

Section.	Total No. of Societies.	Members of Union	Non-members of Union.	Per Cent Members of Union.
Ireland	41	30	11	73·2
Midland	213	191	22	89·7
Northern	139	135	4	97·1
North-Western ..	456	415	41	91·0
Scottish	277	220	57	79·4
Southern	189	168	21	88·9
South-Western ..	77	68	9	88·3
Western	89	81	8	91·0

1,481 1,308 173

† Societies members of the Union in 1917..... 1,308

† Societies members of the Union in 1916..... 1,285

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP.

	Number of Societies.	Per cent.	Membership of Societies.	Per cent.
† Members of Union	1,308	88·3	3,456,619	96·91
† Non-members of Union	173	11·7	110,120	3·09

Total No. of Societies 1,481 Total Membership 3,566,739

† These figures refer only to Societies included in the Statistical Return.

16. CENTRAL BOARD.

Two meetings of the Central Board have been held since last Congress. The first took place in Holyoake House, on Saturday, 19th August, 1916.

The chief business transacted at the meeting was consideration of and decision as to the course of action to be taken on the various resolutions adopted by Congress.

The first resolution dealt with was the one on the report of the Joint Exhibitions Committee and the action taken by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. It was reported that the resolution had been conveyed to the Co-operative Wholesale Society directors, and the question asked if the matter had been reconsidered by them, but up to the time of the meeting no reply had been received, it was therefore decided to appoint a deputation to wait upon the directors in order to discuss the matter.

The resolution approving the proposal to issue a manifesto to co-operative societies and trade-unionists, and directing the United Board to consult with the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, was next considered. It was reported that this resolution had been conveyed to the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, and that the chairman and secretary of that committee had been interviewed, and the suggestion made that a joint meeting might be held to consider the manifesto so that the same could be submitted to the Trades Union Congress.

The resolution approving the establishment of Hours and Wages Boards was considered, when draft rules and regulations for the guidance of such Boards were submitted. As these had not been in the hands of the members a sufficient length of time to enable them to deal with the same, it was decided that copies should be printed and sent to each Sectional Board for consideration, alteration, or addition.

The resolution reaffirming the position of the co-operative movement on the question of income tax was next considered, and it was decided to remit this to the Joint Parliamentary Committee, who were dealing with the subject, with a view to united action being taken by all sections and societies.

A copy of the resolution *re* the control of land, which was adopted, had been forwarded to and acknowledged by the Prime Minister.

The United Board when deciding to call the Central Board, agreed to ask each Sectional Board to send in any subject they desired to have discussed, and the following subjects were considered:—

(a) That consideration be given to ways and means of giving effect to the recommendations contained in Mr. Hall's Congress paper *re* National Propaganda Scheme.

(b) The desirability of providing Mission Vans for propaganda work. Both these suggestions were remitted to the Joint Propaganda Committee for their consideration.

(c) The policy of co-operative societies with regard to non-members' trade and the acceptance of contracts from public bodies.

It was decided that this question was a necessary part of the work which the Joint Parliamentary Committee had in hand in meeting the attacks made by our opponents on the income tax, and that the matter be referred

to that committee so that it could be dealt with in the paper which was being prepared for consideration at the sectional conferences.

(d) To consider the advisability of appointing a committee of managers with experience of farming or dealings with smallholders of produce, together with the chairman and two other members of the Central Board, for the purpose of—(1) Suggesting means for the employment of co-operative employes disabled in the war; (2) considering the proposed Government colonies to be managed by civil service officials, as distinct from co-operators who are already organising the markets; such committee to report to the next meeting of the Central Board.

This was discussed and the Board expressed its sympathy with the suggestion, but thought that the formation of a special co-operative committee was not desirable, as it was a matter which should be dealt with nationally.

(e) That statements concerning the effects and the working of the Excess Profits Duty be prepared by the Union.

It was pointed out that this information was already being obtained by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, but that the returns were not coming in as quickly as desired.

It was resolved that the Central Office should assist the Joint Parliamentary Committee in obtaining the information in order that the return might be prepared as quickly as possible, and from that return a report should be prepared.

(f) To consider the question as to whether societies should supply surveyors of taxes with a list of members in receipt of £130 per annum, who receive share interest.

The general secretary replied to the effect that some years ago arrangements were entered into with the Inland Revenue Commissioners, when it was agreed that the secretaries of societies should supply the local surveyors with the names of individuals holding loans in the society, whose income was, in their opinion, about £130 per annum, but there was no liability to supply a list of shareholders nor the amount of each shareholding, as every member who was taxable should include in his return of income the amount of interest received on his investment in the society.

Lancaster Congress.—The Office Committee recommended that £150 of the amount already paid by Lancaster Society towards the Lancaster Congress Fund should be refunded, thus making their contribution to the Fund £200. It was thought by the North-Western Sectional Board that £200 would be a very handsome donation from the society, seeing that the expenditure in connection with the Congress was not nearly so great as previously, owing to there being no exhibition. The recommendation was unanimously agreed to.

Paris Congress.—The action of the United Board in appointing representatives to attend the Congress of the French societies and the conference of representatives of organisations from the allied countries, was approved.

The following resolutions, which had been passed by the Women's Guild Congress, were submitted for consideration :—

Co-operative Propaganda.—"That this Congress supports the proposals for the institution of an organised propaganda campaign after the war, and urges that the following principles should be accepted in the organisation of the campaign—

- "(1) Women shall be included in all propaganda committees ;
- "(2) District organisations of the Co-operative Union and Guild shall be utilised for the work ;
- "(3) One of the objects of the campaign shall be to encourage the development of an educational form of co-operative advertisement through which a knowledge of the nature and objects of the movement may be widely spread, and for this purpose a central propaganda department, employing experts, shall be established for the movement."

Replacement of Men by Women in Industry.—"In view of the fact that women have entered and proved their efficiency in many occupations previously closed to them, this Congress is of opinion that it is in the national interest that women should be freely admitted to all occupations after the war, provided that they are paid at the men's rates ; and, therefore, this Congress urges the Co-operative Union and the trade unions concerned to come to an agreement for the whole movement whereby experienced women replacing men shall at once be paid the men's rate ; and women without experience shall be paid the men's rate after a year's employment."

As regards the question of co-operative propaganda, it was pointed out that this was already being dealt with by the Union, who always welcomed the co-operation of the Women's Guilds.

So far as the resolution on the question of replacement of men by women was concerned, the Board expressed their opinion that this was a matter which should be left to the Hours and Wages Board already formed or to be formed.

Holyoake Centenary.—The question of suitably commemorating the centenary of Mr. G. J. Holyoake's birth on 13th April, 1917, was considered. During the discussion a suggestion was made that this commemoration should be held in Birmingham. It was agreed that a demonstration should be held, and the arrangements were left to the United Board.

The second meeting was held on Saturday, 21st April, 1917, the main business being consideration and adoption of the report to Congress, also to consider the various resolutions sent in by societies.

17. UNITED BOARD.

The United Board has consisted of the following members of the Board appointed by their respective sections :—

Section.	Representatives.
Irish	Mr. R. Fleming.
Midland	Messrs. J. Langley and W. Millerchip.
Northern	Messrs. J. Davison and S. Galbraith, M.P.
North-Western ..	Messrs. W. Dewhurst, G. Goodenough, J. W. Hargreaves, and J. Pollitt.
Scottish	Messrs. G. Bisset and G. Wilson.
Southern	Mrs. M. A. Gasson and Mr. W. T. Charter.
South-Western ..	Mr. W. H. Watkins.
Western	Mr. D. Evans.

Since last Congress the Board has held five meetings, viz., 8th July, 16th September, 18th November, 1916; 13th January and 17th March, 1917. Mr. D. Evans was appointed chairman of the Board for the year.

In addition to the above-mentioned meetings the United Board met the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 16th March, 1917, to consider and decide upon uniform action on the questions of Excess Profits Duty, Income Tax agitation, and non-members' trade, when arrangements were come to for the issue of a joint circular suggesting the action societies should take on the questions named.

18. THE OFFICE COMMITTEE.

Section.	Representatives.
Irish	Mr. R. Fleming.
Midland	Mr. W. Millerchip.
Northern	Mr. J. Davison.
North-Western	Messrs. W. Dewhurst and J. Pollitt.
Scottish	Mr. G. Wilson.
Southern	Mrs. M. A. Gasson.
South-Western	Mr. W. H. Watkins.
Western	Mr. D. Evans.

Mr. J. Pollitt has acted as chairman of the committee.

19. COMMITTEES OF THE UNION.

The following is a list of committees which have been in existence during the past year:—

- (a) Committee on Education.
- (b) Publications Committee.
- (c) Joint Propaganda Committee.
- (d) Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- (e) Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators.
- (f) Co-operative Defence Committee.

The reports submitted by the various committees are given in their usual order in this report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

20. CENTRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(See Appendix IV., pages 278 to 290).

The constitution of the Committee for the past Congress year (1916-19 7) has been as follows:—

Representing the Sections :

Irish	Mr. H. Archer.	Scottish	Mr. J. Lucas, M.A., F.E.I.S.
Midland	Mr. J. Millington.	Southern	Mr. A. Hainsworth.
Northern	Mr. W. R. Rae.	South-Western .	Rev. G. S. Ramsay, B.A.
North-Western .	Mr. E. Booth.	Western	Mr. D. Williams.
	Mr. S. Fairbrother.		

Representing Educational Committees' Associations :

Midland	Mr. C. B. Towns.	Southern	Miss J. P. Madams.
Northern	Mr. W. Clayton.	South-Western .	Mr. W. White.
North-Western .	Mr. J. F. Ashworth.		
	Mr. E. Couldwell.		

Representing the Women's Co-operative Guild: Mrs. Found,

Representing the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés :

Mr. R. J. Wilson.

Chairman of Committee: Mr. W. R. Rae.

Adviser of Studies: Prof. F. Hall, M.A., B.Com.

Secretary: Mr. C. E. Wood.

GENERAL REVIEW.

The development of the work of the committee during the past year has been hindered by the war. Some of the ordinary branches of work have been affected by the decrease in the number of students and by the inappropriateness of the times for undertaking new activities. Nevertheless, certain features of the committee's work, such as summer schools and women's classes, have been developed, and new features have been added. These latter include the publishing of the "Co-operative Educator" and the establishment of the Co-operators' Educational League. The appointment of a woman assistant to the staff of the Educational Department during the year and the establishment of a Statistical Department have also to be noted. These, and other items, are the subject of special mention in paragraphs that follow.

The committee has been again associated, through representatives, with the work of the Publications Committee.

Another feature of the work during the past year has been the joint meetings with representatives of the sectional educational associations. The committee have met the North-Western Educational Committees' Association, the Midland Education Association, and the South-Western Educational Association, and have discussed with them various aspects of the movement's educational work. These conferences it is hoped to continue, with a view to securing more effectual co-operation between our various educational agencies and a better co-ordination of educational effort.

The educational work directed by local committees has suffered during the war period; students have been more difficult to secure and in some subjects—principally the technical subjects—classes have been fewer in number. The lighting restrictions have been an important cause of this falling off; but some societies, by altering the hour of meeting, have been able to overcome some of the difficulties arising from the lighting restrictions and the darkened streets. In some cases, societies have had their halls commandeered; and this has hampered their work. Where there has been any considerable falling off in the number of students it has been due principally to enlistments. On the whole, there has been an increase in the number of classes, and the total number of students (see below).

Members of the educational staff of the Union have, this year, continued the work connected with the General Co-operative Survey upon which they were engaged last year.

No Educational Programme has been issued during the past year. The contemplated changes in the programme and the high price of paper induced the committee to refrain from the issue of a programme until the proposed changes had been fully considered and prepared for publication.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME.

The new Educational Programme now in preparation, will mark an important step forward in the work of the committee. A considerable number of new subjects have been added to the curriculum and other new features have been included. It is hoped that educational and management committees will make a careful study of the programme, with a view to extending educational work in their own society on lines suggested in the programme and consonant with the general educational needs of the movement. The committee appeal to societies to undertake such work as falls within their power with a view to increasing the educational activities of the movement. Such societies as desire to do this will find the programme of more than suggestive value. Societies are also reminded that the advisory services of the Union are always at their disposal for the purpose of increasing and improving their educational work. The attention of committees is drawn to the new subjects included in the programme. These subjects cover a wide range and bear upon the practical problems of the movement and upon the relation of co-operation to the solution of social problems

as well as upon the general organisation of industry and commerce. The programme ought to be carefully studied by co-operative students who aspire to take a share in the remoulding of industry and commerce on co-operative lines. The carrying out in its entirety of the new work outlined in the programme will necessitate additions to the educational staff at Holyoake House, and the appointment of travelling teachers. The appointment of travelling teachers has already been approved by the Central Board.

The committee have found the time inopportune during the past year to take any steps in regard to the proposed Co-operative College, but immediately the end of the war is in sight they will prepare and submit a scheme in accordance with the remit of the United Board.

CLASS WORK.

The class work undertaken during the session 1916-1917 has again suffered from war causes, the total number of students during the session having been 17,860,* as against 17,435 for Congress year, 1915-1916. Full particulars regarding the entries will be found in the appendix. The small falling off in some sections is easily accounted for by the calling up of men for military service, and by the extra calls upon the time of employees, including those who would have acted as teachers.

The correspondence classes (with the exception of those in technical subjects) show an increase in students, which is very gratifying, particularly when it is remembered that there is an increase in the number of students taking advanced subjects, the entries for which bear a much healthier relation to the entries in the elementary classes than formerly. The correspondence students have also kept up with their work better in the past session than in previous sessions, and this, also, is a source of gratification to the committee. This success, the committee believe to be largely due to the influence of the summer schools, which have stimulated the students and helped to secure and maintain their greater interest.

The training courses in technical subjects have suffered through enlistments, as the entries recorded in the appendix indicate. In connection with these training courses, the securing of efficient teachers presents a problem which will be partly, but only partly, met by the appointment of the travelling teachers already mentioned. Very few co-operative managers or secretaries have sufficient time at their disposal to take up this work; and persons qualified as efficient teachers are usually able to secure better-paid positions as co-operative managers. The solution of this problem is engaging the earnest consideration of the committee.

In many cases, societies are not utilising the facilities provided by their local education authorities. In view of the great importance of efficiency in the administration of a society's business, we strongly urge societies to provide opportunities whereby their employees shall not only be permitted, but also encouraged, to take advantage of local public facilities and of the specially-organised co-operative classes. Many large employers are already

* Returns up to date not yet complete.

ahead of the co-operative movement in regard to the technical training of their employees, and unless the movement realises the importance of technical education and the necessity of providing adequate facilities, we shall find ourselves outclassed in our business operations by our competitors.

The women's classes organised by the committee have again been a great success. The programme of instruction was rearranged in three sections, and has met with widespread approval. In its new form, the course is so arranged that the first section deals with the Relation of the Member to Her Own Store, the second with the Wider Co-operative Movement, and the third with Citizen Subjects. The number of classes formed up to 31st March, 1917, was 28, as against 24 in 1915-16, and 640 students as against 695. About ten more classes are arranged for to commence after this date. The committee have had numerous expressions of appreciation of the classes from the students who have joined them.

EXAMINATIONS.

The reduction in the number of entries to classes preparing students for examinations has naturally affected the number of entries for examination. Full details are given in the appendix, where particulars are also given regarding certificates, grants, and prizes, together with the usual comparisons with previous sessions.

WORK OF LOCAL COMMITTEES.

The educational work of local committees has suffered on account of the war. The committees have had numerous difficulties to contend with, but we trust that societies will sufficiently realise the importance of adapting their educational work to meet the necessities created by the present upheaval. The gravity of after-war problems is such, and the effect of these problems upon the working classes so great, that it is imperative for every society to take an active part in organising classes and courses of lectures enabling their members to study these problems. No other organisation has such facilities as we have; and societies will neglect a duty, as well as an opportunity, if they do not at the present time stimulate educational activity for the consideration of after-war problems and their solution on co-operative lines.

We regret to record that during the past year the educational grant in some societies has been reduced; and in other cases the grant has been diverted to less useful purposes. This matter is a serious one; and we strongly urge educational committees so to organise their educational work that its effectiveness will be a complete answer to those who desire to reduce educational grants. We also strongly appeal to societies not already undertaking educational work to do so at the earliest possible moment. Our future depends upon an educated membership. A strong body of co-operative opinion is essential if our ideas are to have widespread acceptance. The industrial and commercial problems after the war will be numerous, grave, and complex; and societies are bound to suffer in the long run unless they take vigorous action in extending co-operative education.

A number of societies, we are glad to notice, have undertaken the organisation of week-end schools. These, without exception, have been very successful; and we commend the example of these enterprising societies to others, with a strong recommendation for the extension of this kind of work. These week-end schools provide not only opportunities of instruction, but, in addition, opportunities for cultivating that friendship and fellowship which are so necessary to our real success, and which, particularly in large societies, are so often lacking.

SECTIONAL EDUCATIONAL (COMMITTEES') ASSOCIATIONS.

These associations during the past year have undertaken their usual work. Like other educational organisations, they have had their difficulties to meet, and the lack of adequate financial support is a serious hindrance to the work of some associations. We appeal to all societies to give their support to these associations with a view to strengthening them in their work. The joint conferences of the associations with the Central Education Committee are likely to be productive of good, and we hope that with the continuation of these conferences and the greater support of societies in their area the associations may have an increasingly useful career.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILD.

This organisation has naturally suffered much as a result of enlistments and the heavy calls upon the time of members who are working in munition industries. In some branches, guild work is practically suspended on account of the small number of members available. Despite the present-time difficulties several new branches have been formed during the year, and when the war is over greater activity may be expected. The Central Council of the Guild have again issued a programme of suggestions to guild branches, including therein notes of lectures on subjects for discussion at guild branches. The report of the guild is given in the appendix. The close connection between this committee and the guild has been maintained during the past year, the chairman of this committee being president of the guild and the secretary of the committee being joint secretary of the guild.

CO-OPERATIVE STUDENTS' FELLOWSHIP.

The fellowship, with the exception of one or two branches, appears to have shown little activity during the past year, the members in many cases being busily engaged in other directions. The annual meeting of 1916 was held at Birkenhead, and recommendations for the establishment of a National Constitution were made and referred to the Central Education Committee. The annual meeting of 1917, which was to have been held at Cambridge at Easter, was abandoned on account of the Easter meetings being postponed through the difficulties of railway travelling, &c. At this meeting it was the intention of the Central Education Committee to bring before the delegates of the fellowship a suggestion that instead of forming a National Constitution the fellowship should be merged in the new Co-operators' Educational League,

which would have a wider purpose than the Fellowship itself, but would serve all the purposes which the Fellowship hitherto has served.

THE CO-OPERATORS' EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE.

The establishment of this organisation has just been decided upon. Its purpose is to bring into touch with the Central Education Committee all those persons in the movement who are interested in our educational work, some of whom hitherto have been somewhat isolated and not able for this reason to take that interest in our educational activities which they would like. It is too early as yet to say anything of the prospects of the league; but the committee are confident that the organisation of all those in the movement who desire educational progress can hardly fail to produce good results. The linking up such persons with the Educational Department of the Union will make possible a closeness of connection and frequency of communication that is likely to give a great stimulus to the educational work of the movement and gather together a strong body of educationalists for the service of the movement. The annual subscription to the organisation will, for the present, be 1s., which will cover the cost of a copy of the new educational magazine—"The Co-operative Educator"—as issued; and the committee invite applications for membership from all those who are already engaged in educational work or may care to be more closely associated with it. The committee are hoping to enrol the members of the College Herald Circle as members of the new league, and we understand that recommendations to this effect will shortly be made to members of the Circle.

CO-OPERATIVE SUMMER SCHOOLS.

These schools again met with great success during the past session. The number of schools was increased, and there was a very considerable increase in the number of students attending. From the small beginning in 1913, the schools have now grown to be of considerable importance, and this is the more remarkable considering the difficulties of the war period. The committee had planned for further extensions during 1917, but, at the time of writing this report, the position is uncertain on account of the continuation of the war and the difficulties and expense of railway travelling. A report of the 1916 schools appears in the appendix.

EASTER WEEK-END MEETINGS.

The usual Easter week-end meetings were abandoned this year. Cambridge was the centre selected on the invitation of the Cambridge Co-operative Society and the University authorities. A preliminary meeting was held and a provisional programme drafted; but the continuation of the war, the increase of railway fares, and the necessity of reducing the claims upon the railways as much as possible led, along with other considerations, to the postponement of the meetings for a year.

LECTURES TO SECRETARIES AND MANAGERS.

The lectures to secretaries were arranged as usual in conjunction with the Co-operative Secretaries' Association, but only two of the four arranged were given. The remainder were abandoned on account of the difficulties of railway travelling, and because secretaries were so fully engaged with their societies' affairs as a result of shortage of staff.

Lectures to managers were arranged at Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds, and London. More lectures would have been held, had not the National Co-operative Managers' Association found it difficult to arrange meetings on account of their members being so fully engaged at the present time.

JUNIOR CO-OPERATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS.

These demonstrations have again been abandoned on account of the war conditions.

CONGRESS MEETINGS.

A special conference was held on Saturday afternoon preceding the opening of the Lancaster Congress, when the chairman of the committee gave an address upon the "Future Educational Policy of the Co-operative Movement and Some Immediate Developments," which aroused considerable interest, and has since been given at other centres with much acceptance. The Saturday afternoon conference at Congress was so successful that the committee intend to hold a similar conference annually at Congress; and for the conference at the forthcoming Congress the Adviser of Studies is appointed to speak upon "The New Educational Programme and the Development of our Educational Work Outlined Therein."

The educational session at the Lancaster Congress was held as usual on Tuesday evening, when Mr. A. L. Smith, M.A., Master of Balliol, gave an address on the "Educational Lessons of the War." The address was a very valuable one, and was much appreciated by the large audience assembled. It has since been reprinted in pamphlet form, and copies can be obtained from Holyoake House.

APPOINTMENT OF WOMAN ASSISTANT.

Since we presented our last report the teaching staff of the educational department has been increased by the appointment of a woman assistant. Many applications were received in response to the Union's advertisement, and Miss E. M. Bradley, M.A., of Bolton, was appointed. She is a graduate of the Manchester University, and at the time of her appointment was a member of the staff of the Brookenhurst Pupil Teachers' Centre.

In view of the projected development of the educational work of the Union the appointment of additional assistants is an immediate necessity, and when the war is over the committee will make certain proposals in regard thereto.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT AND TRADE INFORMATION BUREAU.

The foundations of this department have been laid since the committee presented their last report, and the department, it is expected, will become

increasingly useful to societies as time goes on and its work develops. Its development at the present time is hindered by so many members of the Union's staff being at present away on active service and therefore not available.

LANTERN SLIDES.

For many years, the Lantern Slide Department has not been as satisfactory as the committee desired it to be; but during the past year reorganisation has been commenced, and it is hoped by the committee that in a comparatively short time the department will be able to give societies the best facilities that can be provided for our special co-operative work. It is intended eventually to publish a catalogue of available slides.

LIBRARY AT HOLYOAKE HOUSE.

Very little has yet been done in the way of revising the library and bringing it up to date; but a modest start has been made; and it is hoped during the coming year to make greater progress in this matter. Suggestions for the building up of an officials' library have been discussed, and the committee, in conjunction with the Secretaries' Association, are arranging for the establishment of a Secretaries' Library to be organised in connection with the General Library of the Union.

"THE CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATOR."

This new magazine was issued for the first time in January. It incorporates the "College Herald" which has now been circulating for nearly four years to members of the College Herald Circle and a few others interested in our educational work. The "Educator" was well received on its first publication and 10,000 copies of the first edition were printed, including those supplied to members of the College Herald Circle. Many expressions of approval and appreciation have been received by the committee, who are satisfied that the magazine meets a need, and are gratified with the expressions of appreciation which have been received. At present, the magazine is issued quarterly; but it is hoped when the war is over, and paper is cheaper, that publication monthly will become possible. This will increase the necessity for an augmented staff. The "Educator" provides the committee with a valuable means of communication with societies and with students in the movement as well as with others interested in the movement's educational work.

CONNECTION WITH OUTSIDE BODIES.

The committee has continued its connection with the Workers' Educational Association, upon the Council of which organisation it is represented by the secretary to the committee. The association continues its useful work, and the committee would commend to societies a careful consideration of the proposals of the association in regard to educational reconstruction. Co-operative Educational Committees and Educational Associations would

render a public service if they convened conferences for the discussion of this important subject.

The committee has continued its representation on the various joint tutorial-classes committees that are now established in connection with most universities. The tutorial classes continue to do good work, which deserves every encouragement and support.

The committee is also represented on the executive of Ruskin College, and the United Board is also represented on the executive. For the time being, the College is being used by the War Office in connection with hospital work; but the correspondence classes of the College are being continued, and preparations are being made for the resumption of the ordinary College work when the war is over. During the year, conferences on war problems have been held; and the addresses and discussions at these conferences have been published in book form by the College executive.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION.

The committee are conscious of the necessity of extending the educational activities of the movement, and the new programme for the session 1917-1918 indicates some of the lines of development. Additional developments will also be undertaken when the report of the Survey Committee has received the approval of Congress. Suggestions are being made for the better organisation of the Union's work at headquarters, and these suggestions include the better departmentalising of the Union's administrative work and the securing of effective co-ordination between the various departments at Holyoake House. These suggestions when carried into effect will, the committee believe, promote the more successful administration of the work of the Union and assist materially in the development of educational activities.

On behalf of the Central Education Committee,

W. R. RAE, Chairman.

F. HALL, Adviser of Studies.

C. E. WOOD, Secretary.

Resolution from Central Education Committee (to be moved by Mr. W. Clayton).

EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

That this Congress, convinced of the important contribution which a satisfactory system of education can make to the welfare of the nation, and dissatisfied with the present scope and organisation of education in the United Kingdom, demands a reorganisation of education on lines that will facilitate the fuller development of the childhood, manhood, and womanhood of the nation; and in particular insists:—

- (1) That the present half-time system be abolished, all exemptions below the age of 14 discontinued, the

leaving age at the close of the war being raised to 15 ;

(2) That continued education be compulsory up to the age of 18, free from specialised craft education ;

(3) That maintenance grants for students be provided where necessary.

(4) That the Government take such steps as are necessary to enable qualified candidates to pass to the Universities unhindered by considerations of expense ;

(5) That recognition be given to the importance of the teacher's personality in education by raising the status and increasing the salaries of teachers, to provide them with adequate reward for their services, and as a means of attracting and retaining in the service of education the men and women best fitted for the teaching profession.

21. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE.

This committee has been constituted as under for the Congress year (1916-17) :—

United Board Representatives : Messrs. J. Pollitt and W. H. Watkins.
Central Education Committee's Representatives : Messrs. S. Fairbrother,
A. Hainsworth, J. Lucas, M.A., W. R. Rae, and the Rev. G. S.
Ramsey, B.A.

Chairman : Mr. W. R. Rae.

Adviser of Studies : Professor Hall, M.A.

Secretary : Mr. C. E. Wood.

The committee has met on five occasions during the year

GENERAL REVIEW.

The work of the committee is steadily growing in volume and importance, although it has been greatly hindered during the past year by the prevailing war conditions and shortage of staff at the Central Office. Despite these handicaps, much good work has been done. The demand for the literature issued by the Union increases yearly in a very gratifying manner ; and the demand during the past year has reached a new record, except in the case of technical text-books, which have been affected by the reduction of technical classes consequent upon the war. The sales during the past year (1916) have been £2,500, as against £2,400 in 1915 and 1914, and £1,980 in 1913. The growth of the work has brought about the need for the early establishment of a more-definitely organised literature and publication department.

BOOKS AND BOOKLETS.

The following books have been issued by the Union during the year :—

- (a) "Report of the 1916 Co-operative Congress," held at Lancaster (855 pp.). A copy of this book was issued to all society members

of the Union, and orders for a large number of copies have been received in addition. The book is sold at the low price of 2s. 6d. per copy, postage or carriage extra.

- (b) "The Co-operative Directory" (286 pp.). A new Co-operative Directory (10s., post free 10s. 5d.) has been issued during the year. Each society supplying information has received a copy free, and a fair number of additional copies have been sold. The previous directory was issued in 1910.
- (c) "Apprentices' Text-Book." With the changed conditions due to the war a large number of women and additional junior employees have been taken into the service of co-operative societies. The committee thought it desirable to place in the hands of these young employees some book that would be helpful to them in their work, and with this object in view they have reprinted in a cheap form the text-book for apprentices and junior employees. This book was originally published at the price of 1s. 6d. nett, but as a result of orders received for the cheap edition we have been able to publish it at 7d. nett, and up to 1st March 4,000 copies had been sold.
- (d) "Report of Lectures to Secretaries." Following the usual custom, the committee have published in booklet form the reports of three lectures given to secretaries during the session 1915-16, on the subjects of "Banking," "The National Insurance Acts in Operation," and "The Value and Use of Statistics." A fourth lecture on "The Excess Profits Duty" was not published, the subject matter not being of permanent value owing to changes in circumstances.
- (e) Booklet—"The Co-operative Movement and the Place of the Member in it." This booklet, mentioned in our last Report, has been well received, and we have printed up to date, 100,000 copies.
- (f) Booklet—"The Story of the Life of George Jacob Holyoake." Booklet prepared for the Holyoake Centenary celebrations, by E. O. Greening.

BOOKS IN PREPARATION.

- (a) "Books on Co-operation in the United Kingdom and Abroad." We have arranged with the Co-operative Reference Library, Dublin, to prepare on our behalf two books on "Co-operation in the United Kingdom and Abroad." The first book will deal in a comparative manner with the various forms of application of co-operative principles, and the organisation of the co-operative movement in the various countries. The second book will deal in a comparative manner with the various industries and services organised co-operatively. It will be at least twelve months before the first book is ready for publication. We are hoping,

after these two books have been published, to issue further books in the nature of primers, each one dealing more extensively with the co-operative movement in one country.

- (b) "Text-Book on Foodstuffs." The Central Education Committee, in conjunction with this committee, have decided to publish three new text-books in connection with the salesmanship training courses. The text-books will deal with :—

1. "Foodstuffs Departments."
2. "Textile and Allied Departments."
3. "Furnishing, Hardware, and Allied Departments."

It has been arranged to publish first the book on "Foodstuffs"; and we have met representative managers to discuss with them the outlines of this book. The work of compilation has been entrusted to Mr. R. J. Wilson, who prepared the first text-book for managers. Mr. Wilson is now considerably advanced with the work, and hopes to be in a position to have the book ready for publication some time during the summer months.

- (c) "Handbook for Committees." We had hoped to issue this new book before this Congress; but circumstances have arisen which will delay its publication.
- (d) "Intermediate Text-Book." This new book, to be used mainly for the advanced junior classes, is now well in hand, and will be published in ample time for use in connection with classes for next session.
- (e) "Economics of Co-operation."
- (f) "Sketch of the Co-operative Movement" (Primer Series).
- (g) "Co-operative Production" (Primer Series).
- (h) "Co-operative Finance" (Primer Series).
- (i) "Short History of the Co-operative Movement" (Union Series).

PAMPHLETS AND LEAFLETS.

Several new pamphlets and leaflets have been published during the year. They are :—

- (a) A propaganda pamphlet, entitled "Co-operation. What it has done for the People, &c." This pamphlet has been in great request during the year, and over 200,000 copies have been sold to date. It is still on sale, and can be adapted for local needs by printing on the covers particulars relating to the local society.
- (b) A new propaganda pamphlet has recently been published, entitled "After the War is Over," and orders are now being received. We should like to see as large a demand for this pamphlet as for the previous one.
- (c) "Inaugural Address delivered at the Lancaster Congress," by Mr. W. Gregory, J.P.

- (d) Lancaster Congress Paper : "The Economic Results of the War and their effect upon the Co-operative Movement," by F. Hall, M.A., B.Com.
- (e) "Co-operative Education and the Programme of the Central Education Committee," by W. R. Rae.
- (f) "The Spirit of the Co-operator." Sermon preached on Whit-Sunday, 1916, by Canon Rawnsley.
- (g) "Educational Lessons of the War." An address delivered at the Educational Session of the Lancaster Congress, by A. L. Smith, M.A. (Master of Balliol College).
- (h) "The Value and Use of Statistics," by F. Hall, M.A., B.Com.
- (i) "Co-operation and Trade Unionism," by F. Hall, M.A., B.Com.
- (j) "How can Co-operative Methods be most successfully applied to agriculture, and reconcile the interests of consumers and producers ?" (First-prize Essay, Session 1915-16), by E. W. Hampton.
- (k) "Co-operative Advertising." (Reprint from C W.S. Annual, 1916), by T. Armstrong.
- (l) "The Study of Business Organisation," by F. Hall, M.A., B.Com.
- (m) "The rise in the prices of commodities, and the action the Co-operative Movement should take in reference thereto," by A. Pickup.
- (n) "The value of Educational Work in the Co-operative Movement," by W. J. Foster.
- (o) "Co-operative Capital : Its Accumulation and Employment," by F. Hall, M.A., B.Com. (reprint).
- (p) "The Organisation of Co-operative Educationalists," by F. Hall, M.A., B.Com.
- (q) "Men's Guild Pamphlet, No. 9." Subjects suggested for discussion by branches, winter session 1916-17. Notes of lectures :
 - 1 "Co-operative Insurance."
 - 2 "Joint Work with Labour Organisations."
 - 3 "Co-operative Control of Raw Materials."
 - 4 "Excess Profits and Income Tax (with Supplementary Notes on Quarterly Assèssments)."
 - 5 "Amalgamation and Overlapping."
- (r) "Men's Guild Pamphlet, No. 10" (Supplementary to No. 9). Co-operative Insurance and Additional Notes on Insurance.
- (s) "Men's Guild Pamphlet, No. 11."
"The Organisation of Democracy."

INCOME TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS PAMPHLETS AND LEAFLETS.

Pamphlet : "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax," by H. J. May (Secretary, Joint Parliamentary Committee).

Pamphlet (re-issue) : "Income Tax," by J. C. Gray. The case for Co-operative Societies being a summary of evidence given (December, 1904),

before the Departmental Committee on Income Tax, and the Report of the Committee thereon, June, 1905.

Pamphlet (re-issue): "Co-operative Societies and the Income Tax," by the late J. C. Gray.

Pamphlet: "A word as to so-called Excess-Profits Taxation." Prepared and first issued by the Plymouth Co-operative Society, Ltd.

Pamphlet: "Co-operators and the Income Tax," by W. B. Neville.

LEAFLETS.

(a) "Some Points about Exemption."

(b) "The Present Position of Co-operative Societies."

(c) "Income Tax or Savings. Which?"

Circular: "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax" Prepared by North-Western Sectional Board.

LEAFLETS IN THE WELSH LANGUAGE.

(a) "What is Co-operation?"

(b) "A few reasons why every working man should be a Co-operator."

(c) "Co-operation: An appeal to working men."

LEAFLET IN THE GAELIC LANGUAGE.

"What Co-operation is capable of accomplishing in the Highlands of Scotland."

PUBLISHERS' STOCKS OF CO-OPERATIVE BOOKS.

The committee recently purchased stock remainders of the following books from publishers, and have been able to offer these two books in paperback editions at the low price of 1s. each nett:—

(a) "Life, Times, and Labours of Robert Owen."

(b) "Self-Help," by George Jacob Holyoake.

YEAR BOOK FOR CO-OPERATORS.

During the year we have given consideration to the question of publishing a Year Book for Co-operators. We are aware that various Year Books and Annuals are published in the movement, but they do not cover the ground or fulfil the purposes which have been suggested for the one we have in mind. We have now decided to publish such a year book, and the form of the book is under detailed consideration.

CONFERENCE PAPERS.

The following Conference Papers have been submitted to us by Sectional Boards in addition to those adopted for national use, or as being of permanent value. In some cases, a supply of copies has been added to stock to meet any needs that may arise; but the pamphlets have not been adopted as stock pamphlets:—

"The Industrial Problem."

"Co-operation After the War."

"Real National Capital in Peril: A Protest and a Plea."

- "Technical Training and Efficiency."
- "Relations between Idealists and Practical Persons."
- "Co-operation During and After the War."
- "Agricultural and Consumers' Co-operative Societies."
- "Co-operation and Delight."
- "Food Prices in War Time."
- "High Prices of Commodities."
- "The General Manager's Position in the Co-operative Movement"
- "Co-operation During the War."
- "Dividend."
- "Should Co-operative Societies be Taxed?"
- "Water Transport: Is it Practicable?"
- "The Co-operative Movement and the Workers."

W. R. RAE, *Chairman.*

F. HALL, *Adviser of Studies.*

C. E. WOOD, *Secretary.*

22. THE JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Joint Propaganda Committee for the Congress year has been constituted as follows:—

Representing the Co-operative Union: Messrs. S. R. Foster, F. Hayward, and C. A. W. Saxton.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs. T. Adams T. E. Shotton, A. Varley, and G. Woodhouse.

Mr. T. E. Shotton was appointed as chairman for the year, and Messrs. T. Brodric and A. Whitehead have acted as secretaries.

The meetings of the committee have been held in Manchester at intervals of about six weeks. The policy of the committee has been on the lines of approaching societies, urging them to undertake special propaganda in districts not covered by a society, and this has been found the most satisfactory means of spreading the movement.

The members of the committee have on occasions been appointed to visit societies which appeared to be getting into difficulties, and have thus been able to render valuable assistance and advice.

The propagandist agent (Mr. E. L. Griffiths) has been very active during the year. He has been able to render assistance by canvassing in districts where societies were anxious to extend their operations, many small villages being visited and public meetings arranged; following these meetings, the societies have delivered goods to new members until such times as sufficient trade was forthcoming to warrant them in opening a branch.

The various sectional boards of the Co-operative Union have paid special attention to propaganda; meetings of representatives from the district

associations, along with the sectional boards, have been arranged and a plan of propaganda formulated.

Special mention must be made of the energetic work undertaken by the Shropshire and Mid-Wales district associations. Meetings have been held all through the district, at which the services of a concert party had been engaged, and as a result of the efforts put forth by the propagandist agent these meetings have been most successful, on several occasions a hall sufficiently large enough to contain the number of people wishing to attend being unobtainable, and many people were unable to gain admittance. The District Executive Committee follow up these efforts and keep in touch with the societies, rendering valuable assistance and advice.

In addition to the work of the propagandist agent, the committee has made special grants to sectional boards and district associations, in order that local propagandists may be engaged. In the Southern sections much valuable work has been done by a lady organiser (Mrs. Hunt).

The South-Western Sectional Board has been paying special attention to propaganda work in the section, the Bristol and Somerset District Association having made application for a grant from the committee to enable them to undertake special canvass work, to be followed by public meetings in a number of towns and villages. From the reports received, the meetings already held have been most successful, notwithstanding the trouble co-operative societies are experiencing owing to the shortage of labour, the difficulties of transit, and obtaining the necessary supplies, the results of the special efforts being an increase in membership and trade.

The Devon District Association is taking up propaganda work vigorously. They intend to engage a permanent organiser, and to effect this made an application to this committee for financial assistance, which was readily granted.

In the North-Western Section, the Rossendale District Association has also applied for a grant for special propaganda in that district. and their application was acceded to.

The committee has been furnished at each meeting with particulars of the work done by Mr. Griffiths. He is utilising all his spare time in canvassing South Staffordshire.

Below we give a list of the districts and places visited and worked by the canvassers during the year :—

Aberystwyth, Bedford, Billesdon, Billingham, Campden, Cheadle, Chirk, Clee Hill, Fordingbridge, Froghall, Garthmyl, Gosberton, Harrold, Horley, Ironbridge, Leicester district, Loughborough, Louth, Madeley, Malpas, Mere and district, Newark, Oakamoor, Oldbury, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Rhyl, St. Martin's, Shifnal, Southwell, Sutton-on-Trent, Tamworth and district, Uppingham, Wednesbury, Wellington, Welshpool, Wem, West Bromwich, and Whitchurch.

T. E. SHOTTON, Chairman.

T. BRODRICK,	} Joint
A. WHITEHEAD,	
	Secretaries.

23. JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

The Parliamentary Committee is at present constituted as follows:—

Co-operative Union: Messrs G. Bisset, W. T. Charter, W. Dewhurst, and S. Galbraith, M.P.

Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs. T. W. Allen, T. Adams, G. Woodhouse, and A. Varley.

Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs. W. R. Allan, W. Archbold, J. Bardner, and T. Little.

Messrs. T. Brodrick and A. Whitehead, Hon. Secretaries.

H. J. May, Secretary.

THE GENERAL POSITION.

During the past year a great variety of matters have been dealt with by the committee, most of them arising from the war. It is necessary, however, that our report should be as brief as possible in view of the shortage—both of labour and paper.

The following list of subjects will show the scope of the committee's activities:—Income Tax, Excess Profits Duty, Military Service, Sugar and other Food Regulations, Commissions on Paper, Petrol, and Dried Fruits, West African Trade, Price of Coal Limitation Act, Earlier Closing of Shops, Summer Time, Railway Facilities and Increased Fares, Pensions, &c.

In dealing with many of these matters, it must be admitted that the results achieved are very small compared with the efforts made. It is of no use blinking the fact that the co-operative movement carries but little weight, either with the legislature or the administrative departments of the State. By constant pressure of our case we are sometimes able to gain a little consideration, but in the things that matter most to-day our influence is practically nil. Those in authority do not even take the trouble to understand the general lines of our organisation. Our energies, as a movement, are applied so diffusely and with such lack of unity as to be almost worse than useless.

We are not satisfied with the results of the past year's work, which, considering the numerical strength and political potentiality of our movement, to say nothing of our rights as citizens, are very small indeed. Immense changes are upon us in every department of our national life. Generally speaking, those changes will be to our ultimate disadvantage, unless we are alive to the trend of events, and make the necessary efforts to maintain our rightful position in the general scheme of things, we shall find ourselves in the back-wash of the revolution, instead of on the crest of its foremost waves.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Since our last report, this duty has been increased to 60 per cent, and although the total yield of the tax has reached an enormous sum, there is

little hope that it will be reduced. Its temporary character and the increasing demands for war expenditure, will be offered as sufficient excuse for not reducing it, even if no increase is attempted.

The committee have closely followed the results of the operation of the duty upon our societies, and have, on three occasions, interviewed the Chancellor of the Exchequer with respect to various aspects of the matter.

They have also taken steps to secure a return of the results to our societies, which it was not practicable to obtain until the autumn of 1916, owing to the long delays of the Revenue authorities in making the final demands upon societies. These returns show that a large proportion of our societies have not become liable to the tax, chiefly it appears from their having maintained their policy of keeping prices as low as possible and giving the immediate benefit to their members. As the tax is intended not so much to raise revenue as to prevent profiteering, the action of these societies must be regarded as in the best national interests.

Unfortunately, however, through the great increase in prices, and large augmentation of trade in industrial areas, due to the concentration of munition workers, a number of large societies have been, to a certain extent, overwhelmed by these two elements of increased prices and membership. They have been unable to adjust their condition quickly to the altered circumstances, with the result that they are mulcted in heavy taxes, not on excess profits, but on excess prices.

This, of course, is grossly unfair, and is a condition which was never anticipated by the committee, nor, we venture to think, even by the Chancellor himself, when the tax was first imposed.

We have placed the matter in this aspect before the present Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Bonar Law) who, however, does not recognise any hardship in that position. He declares that, as the tax is only for the duration of the war, and to meet a great emergency, co-operators, if they make excess profits, should make this sacrifice to the nation. We have pointed out our willingness to make sacrifice of the legal percentage of any real increase of surplus which our members could be shown to have received, and such as would be shown by an increased rate of dividend on purchases, but that when the tax is levied upon an enormous increase in the cost of living, itself a heavy tax on the community, the Excess Profits Duty in its application to co-operative societies can only be regarded as an injustice.

The Parliamentary Committee have given the fullest consideration to the matter, which in some aspect or other has been before them at every meeting. The need of a definite intimation of policy to our societies was pressed upon them by the circumstances detailed above. They, therefore, sought a joint meeting with the United Board of the Union to consider certain definite proposals, which have since been issued to the societies in the form of a joint circular, as follows :—

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON TAXATION OF CO-OPERATIVE TRADE, &c.

To the Committee of the Society Addressed.

March, 1917.

GENTLEMEN,

The continued agitation for the taxation of co-operative trade and the development of the anomalous position of co-operative societies in relation to Excess Profits Duty, have led the Parliamentary Committee to take counsel with the United Board of the Co-operative Union with a view to the issue to our societies of a united statement of policy, embracing certain definite suggestions as to the practice to be followed in order to preserve intact the legitimate advantages of our co-operative organisation, while discharging fully our obligations as citizens.

We are face to face with a determined effort, engineered from many quarters and having supporters in the highest councils of the State, to place an embargo on co-operative trade in the interests of other traders who, in the various stages of commercial operations in this country, regard themselves as possessing an inalienable right to exploit their fellow-countrymen, and to make fortunes out of the supposed incapacity of the workers to help themselves.

The success of the co-operative movement has given a rude shock to these hereditary profiteers and the trading community generally. Co-operation lays the axe at the root of the tree which they have sedulously cultivated as a birthright. They see the prospect of the still greater limitation of their field of operations, and are prepared to go any lengths to stop its progress, and, if possible, to render the movement impotent.

The economic soundness of our position has been demonstrated to them by authorities outside our movement, who, without doubt, started their investigations with the balance against us. But such evidence and proof of the justice of our claims makes no impression upon our opponents, who attempt to conceal their obvious designs behind cant phrases about patriotism and the national interest.

We are able confidently to challenge comparison with their records in both these matters, and in some others of which they carefully avoid mention.

Under these circumstances we invite our societies to so organise their business and their propaganda, that all the attempts to impose injustice upon our movement may be defeated.

In the following paragraphs we indicate the lines of action which we think it necessary the movement should take to secure its legitimate rights and interests.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Our position on this matter is strong, because we have shown from the commencement a willingness to bear our full share of the national burden during the present crisis, including the Excess Profits Duty, so long as it was levied upon us with fairness, and on the same principles as on other

traders. In practice this result has not been achieved. Every private trader who pays excess profits duty must have secured a definite and appreciable increase to his income before being called upon to pay one penny piece in respect of this duty. Even beyond that point he still retains 40 per cent of any additional income.

The co-operator, however, is required at present to pay the duty on a purely artificial calculation, which, so far from showing any addition to his income, is the measure of his loss of income, owing to the inflated price of commodities brought about by the war.

Let us turn for a moment to the original object of the tax. It was demanded by many sections of the community as a punishment or preventative of profiteering on the part of traders who had already used, or might use the national crisis and suffering to make increased profits out of the community.

Co-operators, on the other hand, were commended by members of the Government for their public service in keeping down prices. Our societies have maintained that position and kept their dividends on purchases normal, or even lowered them in order that the community might have the immediate benefit of cheaper food.

That policy is undoubtedly a benefit to the whole community, and serves equally with Excess Profits Duty to check profiteering.

We therefore recommend societies to mitigate the hardships of increased and increasing prices of commodities by selling goods at the smallest practicable margin of profit. By so doing they will at the same time confer a benefit on the community and correct the anomalies of the tax in its operation upon our societies.

INCOME TAX.

The propaganda undertaken by the Parliamentary Committee and the United Board last June has been so far carried out with good effect. Signs are not wanting that the activity of our societies is making itself felt in the proper quarters.

It is abundantly necessary, however, that the effort should not only be maintained, but increased.

More societies must wake up to the needs of the situation, and use every means in their power to spread the knowledge of our real position in this matter. They must also press their local Members of Parliament to give definite expression to their attitude on the subject, particulars of which should be at once forwarded to the Union or Parliamentary Committee in order that a complete record may be kept, and the weak places strengthened where possible.

NON-MEMBERS' TRADE.

One of the evidences of the effects of our propaganda is seen in the way in which the leaders amongst our opponents are shifting their ground. Many resolutions now begin with a disclaimer of any intention to injure

co-operation, in fact, they bless it, but declare resolutely that non-members' trade must be taxed !

To support this view they quote fabulous figures of this sort of trading which go untaxed. We have shown that the actual fact is that our non-members' trade is about 1 per cent of the whole, and official Government figures are now available which support that statement ; but it is all to no purpose.

As any movement in Parliament on the above lines is bound to be based upon the most extreme and exceptional cases which our opponents can discover, we have decided to urge our societies to reduce non-members' trade as much as possible, and under no circumstances to advertise for it.

We therefore recommend :—

That in order to maintain the position that the movement has always held with regard to non-members' trade, viz., that it is simply an accommodation to special circumstances, and is in fact a negligible quantity, societies should discourage and limit trade with non-members, both in actual practice and by making the facilities for membership as easy as possible, such facilities to be brought definitely to the notice of non-members by propaganda.

CONTRACTS.

The charge has also been made that co-operative societies carry out large public contracts at considerable profits to the societies, on which no Income Tax is paid.

We are convinced that generally speaking there is no substantial ground for this charge. Public administrative bodies do not usually favour co-operative societies under any circumstances, and the amount of tax lost to the revenue in respect of such contracts must be infinitesimal.

During the war, however, the Government, in the exercise of its exceptional powers, has demanded the fulfilment of orders for goods from co-operative societies in common with other traders and manufacturers. Such contracts as these require no defence from us, and should be loyally fulfilled in the present national crisis, as they have hitherto been and without profiteering.

Under normal conditions, however, contracts stand in the same position as non-members' trade, and our societies are recommended to take a similar course with regard to them. Those societies which desire to carry on their operations under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts should take no part in competing for either public or other contracts.

On behalf of the United Board,
A. WHITEHEAD, *General Secretary.*

On behalf of the Joint Parliamentary Committee,
HENRY J. MAY, *Secretary.*

RESOLUTION—Excess Profits Duty.

That this Congress whilst recognising the present necessity for a special tax on excess profits arising from, or made possible by, the war conditions, has observed with concern that the tax as levied on Co-operative Societies has in its incidence produced serious anomalies and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. It therefore urges upon the Government the desirability of effecting such amendments of the Finance Acts as will secure a more equitable distribution of the burden of the tax.

INCOME TAX.

The agitation on this subject has occupied much of the committee's attention throughout the year. Immediately after Congress we were faced with the amendments to the Finance Bill, which appeared in the names of several members of Parliament, proposing to tax 50 per cent of the "profits" of co-operative trading in order to compel the societies to prove the amount of their non-members' trade. Those amendments were eventually ruled out of order. But that did not prevent the opponents of co-operation from engineering a debate on the subject on other clauses of the Finance Bill. The irrelevance of their speeches was duly pointed out by the representative of the Government in charge of the Bill, who nevertheless promised that the co-operative position should be made the subject of inquiry immediately after the war. Since this partial triumph, our opponents inside and outside the House of Commons have been doing their best to force the hands of the Government still further, and to secure the inquiry now. Such is their sense of the importance of dealing a blow at co-operation in the midst of the present terrible crisis! If the co-operative movement were a political entity, this matter at its worst would have to be regarded as being covered by the political truce until the end of the war. We need not be surprised, however, if a strong attempt to force the Government to impose taxation upon our societies is made during the discussion of the next Finance Bill.

The action taken by the Parliamentary Committee is now well known to the societies. Immediately after Congress they decided upon an active campaign to resist this agitation. Circulars have been issued explaining the position, and a detailed statement of our case in the form of a conference paper has been discussed in all the sections. A reasoned resolution has been passed at all the conferences and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor, and to members of Parliament.

The conferences have been amongst the largest ever held, and have been unanimous in their support of the committee's action.

Locally, the campaign is going well. Many societies have held large meetings, and, in spite of the severe weather and darkened streets, much active propaganda has been carried out. We have reason to know that the work put in by the societies is having its effect in the proper quarters. It must, however, be maintained, and every opportunity used to enlighten

those in responsible positions as to the true co-operative position. Members of Parliament should be invited by societies in their constituencies to indicate definitely their views on this matter, and the Parliamentary Committee should be kept informed of the results, in order that they may judge of the necessary additional steps to be taken to secure our position.

In November last, the *Times* newspaper, in its trade supplement, devoted a full-page to the question "Should Co-operative Trade be Taxed?" to which Mr. G. W. Currie, M.P., supplied an affirmative answer. The *Times* also issued a special poster, devoted exclusively to this attack on co-operative trade. They quite readily, however, published our reply to Mr. Currie, in their December issue, and we have received a large demand from our societies for copies of the reply.

This is chiefly interesting as showing how far our opponents have travelled in their efforts to bring the movement into line with their designs.

RESOLUTION—Income Tax.

That this Congress strongly urges upon all Co-operative Societies the necessity of continuing and increasing the campaign of propaganda so well begun against the agitation of the Private Traders' Associations for the taxation of co-operative trade, and declares its determination to maintain by every means in its power the sound economic position of the co-operative movement in relation to taxation, which has been declared by the Inland Revenue authorities for many years past and confirmed by successive Chancellors of the Exchequer.

FORM Q.I

Following the reduction of the taxable limit of income from £160 per annum to £130 per annum, the Board of Inland Revenue issued an entirely new form of inquiry (Q.I.), specially designed to secure a complete return of income from working-men who, by the twin conditions of increased war wages and decreased Income Tax limit, might be expected to become liable to taxation.

This form not only marked the introduction of a special inquisition to the working classes, but also singled out the results of co-operative trading for particular examination. This was accentuated in some cases by the action of local Surveyors of Taxes who demanded other particulars than those required by the Form Q.I. in order, as the Inland Revenue authorities naively told us at a later date, to be sure that the co-operators should not return too much to the State! The Specific Enquiry to which we took exception was the request for particulars of:—

"Income Tax from any dividends and interest you receive, including share interest or deposit interest from co-operative societies."

The wording of this inquiry was so obviously misleading and calculated to secure a return of dividend on purchases that we at once took the matter up with the Inland Revenue authorities, and subsequently with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. As the result, an amended form Q.I. was issued, which makes it clear that dividends on purchases are not to be included.

MILITARY SERVICE.

Since the introduction of compulsory military service, a very large number of letters have been received from societies, complaining of the methods of tribunals and military representatives in dealing with co-operative societies. Many cases have been brought to our notice in which it has been openly suggested by those in authority that co-operative societies were not entitled to the same consideration as ordinary traders.

The charge of non-payment of Income Tax has frequently been used by military representatives as a reason for not giving consideration to co-operative employees.

Members of some tribunals, finding themselves temporarily in a position to deal a blow at their trade rivals, have adopted similar methods. In some cases the chairman of the local tribunal, himself a private trader, has insisted that a certain member or members of the tribunal should not adjudicate on applications from the local co-operative society on the ground that the particular member was known to the chairman of the Tribunal as a member of the local co-operative society.

In all these cases our committee has taken what action was possible to prevent injustice, but not always with success. The War Office, on being appealed to with regard to the military representatives, readily agreed that the introduction of such matter was irrelevant, and issued specific instructions against it. They have also made inquiries in those cases in which we were able to submit exact particulars.

Many societies, we fear, have suffered through not knowing exactly their rights under the law, and have lost opportunities of appeal, that might have relieved the hardships which many have undoubtedly suffered.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR.

Ever since the Government undertook the control of sugar supplies, prices, and distribution, and thus removing sugar from the normal action of ordinary trading operations, the Parliamentary Committee has received a practically continuous correspondence from societies.

Many complaints of shortage of supplies and other difficulties have been individually dealt with and adjusted. Towards the close of last year, however, the complaints became so numerous that the committee decided to obtain an interview with the Chancellor, and to submit the case of our societies for a reconsideration of the basis of distribution. In order to place before the Government exact particulars, a form of inquiry was issued to societies as to their supplies, memberships, &c., at various periods. Some hundreds of replies were received and tabulated.

In the meantime the change of Government had been effected, and a Food Controller appointed. Lord Devonport was at once approached to receive a deputation, which he agreed to do. The representatives of the Parliamentary Committee were on this occasion accompanied by representatives of the War Emergency Workers' National Committee, including Mr. Sidney Webb and Mr. J. S. Middleton (secretary).

Lord Devonport received the deputation very favourably, and admitted the strength of the case submitted to him. He also promised that immediate steps should be taken to redress the most serious inequalities. Upwards of ninety areas have received increased supplies based upon their augmented population. Further adjustments are promised, and, although a rationing scheme has been prepared, it is hoped that the necessity for its use may not arise.

It is only necessary to add that a fuller response to our inquiry on the part of our societies would have strengthened our case, which, however, was actually more complete, exact, and unanswerable than any supplied to the Food Controller.

Lord Devonport subsequently appointed a special committee "to consider the system adopted by the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply for the distribution of sugar for

- (a) Manufacturing use, and
- (b) Domestic consumption,

and to report what further steps should be taken to arrange the allocation of existing supplies, so as to ensure that individual consumers can obtain the quantities which they are entitled to expect under the voluntary rationing scheme."

Our secretary, Mr. H. J. May, was appointed a member of the committee, and was able to place before the committee the experience and difficulties of the co-operative movement. At the time of writing the report of the inquiry has not been issued.

FOOD PRICES.

The committee has not relaxed its efforts in this matter during the year that has passed. Representations were made to the Government by correspondence, and subsequently it was decided to ask the Prime Minister to receive a joint deputation, consisting of representatives of this committee and the Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee.

Before this deputation could be received, Mr. Runciman made a long speech in the House, in which the Government's position was given in detail. It was thought that it would scarcely serve our purpose to follow up with a deputation immediately, and the deputation was held in abeyance.

Then the executive of the Labour Party decided to convene a special conference in London of representatives of the various workers' organisations. We were invited to join in the arrangements, and the committee at once agreed to do so. The response from our societies was very gratifying, and resulted in the assembling together of the best joint gathering of co-operators

and trade-unionists ever held. About 800 delegates were present, half of whom were co-operators.

Unfortunately, the conference in its proceedings fell short of our expectations. But this was largely due to the fact that the political crisis had suddenly developed, with the result that the air was electric with political excitement, distracting from the immediate business. In addition to that, the whole of the members of the Labour Party present, including the chairman of the conference, were suddenly called upon to leave the meeting to confer with the Government. It was impossible to proceed normally under such circumstances. The conference, however eventually passed the following resolutions while some of the demands were actually being conceded at the special conference to which some of the members had been suddenly called.

This conference, representative of national labour organised on both its wage-earning and consuming sides, declares that, whilst regretting the long delay of the Government in taking action to prevent food prices rising, as they have steadily done during the past two years, welcomes the steps that have now been taken, but is of opinion that they are inadequate, and that no policy will be acceptable to organised labour unless it includes :—

(a) The purchase of all imported essential foodstuffs by the Government ;

(b) The commandeering or controlling of home products such as meat, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and milk ; and in view of the serious privations being endured by child-bearing women and young children, and the consequent destruction of their health, the conference calls on the Government to introduce immediately a Bill making it compulsory on municipalities to provide dinners and milk for mothers and young children, half the cost being paid from the National Exchequer.

(c) The commandeering of ships and the controlling of freights and freight rates ;

(d) The placing on the retail markets of all supplies so obtained and controlled at prices which will secure the full benefit of Government action to the consumer ; and the proportional regulation, on a family basis, of the sale of any foodstuffs in which there is a shortage of supplies ;

(e) The organisation and supervision of production : the Government to take into their own hands at least four million acres of land at present abandoned to grass or fallow, including any suitable land now kept as private parks ; to secure sufficient labour and machinery to cultivate, sow, and gather in the harvest from such land ;

to empower all local authorities to utilise every acre of available land within their areas that is now lying idle, and to take over other land where required for spade cultivation for potatoes and other vegetables; to call upon them to make such arrangements as they can for getting as large a proportion as possible under cultivation; and to advance capital to local authorities, also to co-operative societies, to enable them to bring land into arable cultivation.

(i) The conference further demands that for the period of the war and six months afterwards the Government shall purchase wheat on sound business lines, and ensure that bread and flour shall be sold through the United Kingdom at a price not exceeding 6d. per quartern loaf; such loss as may be incurred by this operation to be met as a portion of the general cost of the war.

Further, in the opinion of the conference, the supply of coal and other necessities of life should be dealt with by the Government on lines similar to those indicated above.

Further, the Government should approach the Governments of the Allied Nations with a view to impressing upon them the necessity of working on such lines that Allied purchases shall be centralised and competition between the Allies destroyed.

CO-OPERATIVE REPRESENTATION ON NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES.

The setting up by the Government of many new departments of administration during the war, and the appointment of special committees of inquiry into matters affecting the vital interests of the whole community, has naturally caused the Parliamentary Committee a good deal of concern, that the interests of co-operators should be adequately voiced in these various bodies.

Every effort has been made to induce the Ministers concerned to give consideration to the claims of our movement when these appointments have been made. Our efforts have not been altogether unsuccessful, and the movement has been represented on several important Government committees set up to deal with matters made urgent by the war.

It cannot, however, be said that the representation of the movement has been anything like commensurate, with its importance as a national force nor as universal as its varied interests demand.

The whole question has recently been further pressed upon the notice of the committee from several quarters, and notably by the London Joint Committee of Co-operative Societies, which sent a deputation to the Parliamentary Committee. It was urged that a national conference should be convened forthwith in London, to consider the necessity for the proper recognition of the co-operative movement by the Government in the present serious condition of the country's affairs.

The deputation also submitted resolutions :—(a) Calling upon the Government for such recognition ; and (b) suggesting that a Co-operative Advisory Board should be appointed to place information at the disposal of the representatives whom the Government might appoint.

These proposals were fully considered by the Parliamentary Committee, and their decisions were as follows :—

1. That in view of the near approach of Congress and the difficulties of travelling at the present time, the best means of securing the objects desired would be by submitting a special resolution to Congress. They, therefore, adopted the resolution of the London Joint Committee of Co-operative Societies, with slight verbal amendments.
2. That no useful purpose would be served by the appointment of the Advisory Board proposed, as the Joint Parliamentary Committee has full powers, which it has not failed to exercise again and again when necessary, for obtaining any information and expert advice to meet all the emergencies which are likely to arise.

The resolution which the Parliamentary Committee ask the Congress to adopt is as follows :—

RESOLUTION—Representation on Government Committees, &c.

That in view of the fact that the co-operative movement is the only organised body of consumers in the country ; that co-operators with their families constitute over 26 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom, and that through the medium of their associated wholesale and retail distributive agencies and productive works, they have been, and are, desirous of being of the greatest possible service to the State, this Congress calls upon the Government to take steps to ensure that this section of the community is adequately represented upon the various controlling authorities that have been or will be appointed to deal with the organisation of production, distribution, and exchange during the war, and requests that this resolution may be given effect to as follows :—

- (a) By the inclusion of representatives of co-operative organisations upon the *personnel* of the staffs of expert advisers attached to the special administrative bodies dealing with matters arising from the war.
 - (b) By proportionate representation upon the Departmental Committees appointed from time to time, for the purpose of investigating and advising the respective departments on the various matters referred to them.
3. That the Parliamentary Committee be requested to take all possible steps to give effect to the resolution and, if necessary, to ask the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the subject.

THE BOARD OF TRADE AND INCREASED RAILWAY FARES.

In view of the restrictions on travel resulting from the 50 per cent increase on railway fares and the reduction of the number and speed of trains, representations have been made to the Board of Trade with the object of securing some consideration and relief for co-operators and members of other working-class organisations when engaged on the business of their societies. The case of convalescents, needing change of air, has been specially dealt with, but so far without any satisfactory result.

On 1st February, the Secretary represented the committee on a strong deputation to the Board of Trade, which placed before Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary), an overwhelming case for relief. The deputation was arranged by the Workmen's National Housing Council and was thoroughly representative of working-class needs. Mr. Roberts acknowledged the strength of the case submitted to him but declared that the national interests demanded all the restrictions which had been made. He could not hold out any hope of relief in the near future. We have since approached the Department with a view to obtaining a special arrangement for gatherings like the Congress, but have been only able to obtain renewed assurances of the necessity for maintaining to the full all the restrictions at present in operation.

QUESTIONS TO PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER CANDIDATES.

The committee has, from time to time, considered the desirability of preparing a series of questions to candidates at Parliamentary and other elections, on matters of vital interest to the co-operative movement. The questions would cover the attitude of the candidate towards the movement generally; to its relation to taxation, including Income Tax, Excess Profits Duty, Tariffs, and also any other of the many matters of special legislation which have arisen during the war, or may arise in connection with the reconstruction which must follow the war. Recently the matter has been further emphasised by suggestions from certain of our societies. The committee has now definitely arranged for the preparation of such a list of questions, which it is their desire to have ready for issue whenever the General Election is announced.

Every candidate who accepts nomination in a constituency in which there is a co-operative society should be invited to answer the questions. On the replies received, action could be taken to obtain the support of local co-operators for suitable candidates.

WAR EMERGENCY WORKERS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

This committee, on which we are represented by our secretary, continues its activities on behalf of working-class organisations, in all matters arising from the war which touch the vital interests and well-being of the workers. Amongst the many questions which have occupied its energies are Naval and Military Pensions, Food Supplies and Prices, Rent Restriction

Act, War Profiteering. Very useful results have followed the action taken by the committee in many cases

We refer elsewhere in this report to the special matters in which we have taken joint action with the War Emergency Committee in bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to secure the redress of our grievances.

A tribute is due to the unselfish and painstaking work of the secretary of that committee, Mr. J. S. Middleton.

POLITICAL ACTION.

In September last, the committee, after considering many of the foregoing questions and reviewing the difficulties which beset them at every turn in their endeavours to secure the rights of co-operators, discussed at some length the desirability of the movement taking the necessary steps to secure representation in Parliament. Eventually the following resolution was passed by a majority :—

That, in the opinion of this Joint Parliamentary Committee, the time has now arrived for the co-operative movement to take the necessary steps to secure direct representation in Parliament as the only way of effectively voicing its demands and safeguarding its interests.

If the principle is affirmed by Congress, it will then be necessary to draw up alternative schemes of putting into practice the essential proposal.

T. W. ALLEN, Chairman.

H. J. MAY, Secretary.

Amendment adopted by the Central Board to the Resolution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY :—

That this Congress, whilst recognising the present necessity for a special tax on excess profits arising from or made possible by the war conditions, indignantly protests against the tax being levied on co-operative societies, as such societies do not make profits and cannot therefore make excess profits; and the imposition upon them of this tax has produced serious anomalies and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. This Congress therefore urges upon the Government the desirability of effecting such amendments to the Finance Acts as will remove from co-operative societies the intolerable burden of this tax:

RESOLUTIONS SENT IN BY SOCIETIES.

Sent in by 104 Co-operative Societies.

REPRESENTATION OF CO-OPERATORS IN PARLIAMENT AND ON LOCAL BODIES.

- (1) That in view of the persistent attacks and misrepresentations made by the opponents of the co-operative movement in Parliament, and on local administrative bodies, this Congress is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should secure direct representation in Parliament and on all local administrative bodies.
- (2) It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the above resolution.

Sent in by the Birmingham Industrial Co-operative Society Limited.

- (1) That in view of the persistent attacks and misrepresentations made by the opponents of the co-operative movement in Parliament, and on local administrative bodies, this Congress is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should secure direct representation in Parliament and on all local administrative bodies.
- (2) It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the above resolution, but in view of the possible far-reaching consequences of the introduction of political action into the movement, action shall only be taken after the proposal has been submitted to and approved by a majority of the societies members of the Union, and voting on the basis as per Rule 18.

Sent in by the Stratford Co-operative and Industrial Society Limited.

REPRESENTATION OF CO-OPERATIVE OPINION IN PARLIAMENT.

That in view of the many matters of vital interest to the co-operative movement, such as the Excess Profits Duty, the threatened Income Tax on dividends, the State control of wheat, sugar, coal, &c., which must come before Parliament in the immediate future, this Congress hereby instructs the Central Board to consider ways and means of ensuring the adequate representation of co-operative knowledge and opinion in Parliament.

Sent in by the Chesterfield and District Co-operative Society Limited.

That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Union to enter into negotiations with the Labour Party and Trade Unions with a view to joint Parliamentary action.

Sent in by the Eccles Provident Industrial Co-operative Society Limited.

CONSTITUTION OF JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

That the Joint Parliamentary Committee consist of 13 members, apportioned as follows:—

Seven members to represent the Co-operative Union Limited.

Three members to represent the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

Two members to represent the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

One member to represent the Co-operative Productive Federation.

The members representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the Co-operative Productive Federation, to be elected by their respective organisations. Of the seven members representing the Co-operative Union Limited three shall be elected by and from the United Board, and four members shall be elected by the societies members of the Union. This Joint Parliamentary Committee to appoint their own chairman and secretary.

Further, that the Office Committee make such arrangements as may be necessary for the carrying out of this resolution.

The expenses of members of this committee to be borne proportionately by the organisations they represent.

Resolution sent in by the Co-operative Secretaries' Association.

CONSTITUTION OF JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

That the time has arrived when, in the interests of the whole co-operative movement, the work of the Joint Parliamentary Committee should be carried on by a sub-committee appointed by the United Board for the Co-operative Union Limited, from the elected members of the Union, together with representatives appointed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the Co-operative Productive Federation, with power to co-opt members of other organisations which are members of the Co-operative Union Limited, and which may be deemed able to render assistance. The sub-committee so constituted to be directly responsible to the United Board, and to report to them from time to time.

24. JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE.

It will be remembered that at last Congress we reported that the committee of the Co-operative Wholesale Society had given notice of their intention to withdraw their representatives from this committee, and a resolution was submitted on behalf of the Central Board expressing regret at the action contemplated, and urging the committee of the Wholesale Society to reconsider the matter, with the object of continuing their representation and taking part in Joint Exhibitions.

On this report coming before Congress for consideration, and in view of the trend of the discussion upon it, the Wholesale Committee stated they were prepared to reconsider the position in the light of what had been said, if the resolution as mentioned above was withdrawn. With this understanding, therefore, the Central Board agreed, with the sanction of Congress, to withdraw the resolution.

At the first meeting of the United Board after Congress, held on 8th July, instructions were given to the general secretary to communicate with the Wholesale Committee, asking if the question of appointing representatives on the Joint Exhibitions Committee had been reconsidered in accordance with the promise given at Congress. On 19th August, no reply having been received, the Central Board appointed a deputation, consisting of Messrs. W. T. Charter, W. Gregory, and the general secretary, to wait upon the Wholesale Committee, and this deputation was received on 14th September, when an intimation was given that no decision had yet been come to in the matter, but the whole subject was to be considered by the committee on 29th September. On 3rd October we received a letter stating that the Congress resolution *re* Joint Exhibitions, had been discussed, and it had been decided to "adjourn further consideration of the matter until after the war."

As this reply was not considered to be satisfactory, we again wrote and asked whether their representatives would be prepared to act on the committee should necessity arise. To this inquiry a reply was received pointing out that they had decided as far back as August, 1914, not to hold any exhibitions during the period of the war, and therefore they did not see that any useful purpose would be served by their being represented at any meetings of the Exhibitions Committee.

The correspondence was submitted to the United Board meeting on 18th November, when the following resolution was passed, viz. :—

That in view of the discussion which took place at Congress with regard to the Joint Exhibitions Committee, and the statement made by the Co-operative Wholesale Society representatives that they would reconsider the whole position, we ask them to give a definite answer as to whether or not they intend to withdraw their representatives from the committee.

In due course, the Wholesale Society was again written, with the result

that they simply confirmed their previous decision of adjourning the matter until after the war.

The Board regret very much the necessity of raising controversy on this matter, but in view of the statement made by Mr. Lander, on behalf of the Wholesale Society's Committee, at Lancaster Congress, that they were prepared to reconsider the position, we feel that we have not been fairly dealt with. The resolution submitted to Congress was withdrawn on the distinct promise that the position would be reconsidered, and a decision arrived at as to whether they would continue their representation on the committee or not.

We quite realise that so long as the war continues there can be no question of holding any exhibitions, but, immediately it is over, requests for Joint Exhibitions are certain to be made, and we therefore think that the principle underlying the promotion of such exhibitions by means of a joint committee representative of all the interests involved should be settled, so that the committee may proceed with their work as soon as the opportunity arrives.

In order that the delegates may be informed as to why and when the committee was brought into existence, we reprint the statement which appeared in our last report, as follows, viz. :—

* The committee was established in 1901. For some time previous the Co-operative Wholesale Society had not exhibited their goods alongside those manufactured by the productive societies. It was felt advisable in the best interests of the movement that the friction then existing should be removed, in order that both sides could work harmoniously together in promoting exhibitions which would be thoroughly representative of every phase of co-operative production.

The United Board of the Co-operative Union appointed a sub-committee to deal with the matter, and, in conjunction with representatives from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, a scheme was drawn up and submitted to the Middlesbrough Congress. This scheme provided for the appointment of a Joint Exhibitions Committee, consisting of four representatives from the Co-operative Union, four from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and three from the Co-operative Productive Federation, which in future would have control of all exhibitions except the Congress Exhibition and exhibitions arranged by the Co-operative Wholesale Society for purely trade purposes.

In our opinion the committee has answered admirably the purpose for which it was formed, and we should regret very much if the present policy was departed from. It could only result in producing discord in the movement, and would show to the outside world a division in our ranks, which would certainly be a discredit to co-operation.

We, therefore, sincerely hope that the committee of the Wholesale Society will withdraw from the position taken up, and be prepared to fulfil the promise given at last Congress.

25. JOINT COMMITTEE OF TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The committee during the past year was constituted as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union : Messrs. J. Davison, D. Evans, J. Langley, and A. Whitehead.

Representing the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee : Messrs. C. W. Bowerman, M.P., F. Bramley, J. Hill, and J. W. Ogden.

The committee has met on five occasions since last Congress, viz :— 31st August, 12th September, 13th December, 1916; 8th January and 9th February, 1917.

Mr. J. Hill, the chairman of the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, has, unfortunately, been unable to attend any of the meetings of this committee, owing to other important engagements; able substitutes were, however, found in Messrs. H. Gosling and G. H. Stuart-Burnling.

At the first meeting the question of issuing a joint manifesto, as suggested at the Co-operative Congress, held at Lancaster, was considered, but the representatives from the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee wanted further information before that committee would decide to include the resolution in their report to Congress.

The matter was fully discussed, but the trade union representatives still had doubts as to submitting the resolution to the Trades Union Congress in the form passed at the Co-operative Congress.

Eventually the resolution was not included in the agenda, but at the Trades Union Congress held at Bristol a resolution, which will come up for consideration at Congress, was adopted asking the Co-operative Union to appoint representatives from the co-operative movement to meet with a similar number to be appointed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee. If this suggestion is adopted at the Swansea Congress the question of issuing a joint manifesto will be the first item of business for consideration by the duly appointed representatives.

Several matters in dispute between co-operative societies and trade unions have received attention.

The first case brought before the committee was one in which the local Bakers' Union of Blackburn and district had entered upon a strike before first submitting the matter in dispute to this committee. They still refused to submit their case for arbitration, whilst the co-operative societies had asked for the whole question to be submitted and were prepared to abide by the decision of the committee, provided the men at once returned to work, and should any increase of wages be included in the award they would make this retrospective.

After the question had been fully discussed, it was resolved—

That the trade union representatives on the committee should interview members of the Bakers' Unions attending the Birmingham Congress, in order to ascertain their views, and that the matter be considered at a meeting of the committee to be held in Manchester on Tuesday, 12th September, at 2 p.m.

At this meeting correspondence was submitted from the Plymouth Co-operative Society and the Dock, Wharf, and Riverside Workers' Union, in which the union was making claims for increase of wages, &c., and the union requested the services of this committee. The Plymouth Society refused to submit the matters in dispute, and, in support of their action, stated that there was in existence a local Advisory Board of Co-operators and Trades Unionists, which had the matter under consideration, and until that board had come to a decision the society maintained that the Dock Workers' Union were not in order in asking for arbitration.

The question was discussed at length, and eventually the following resolution was adopted:—

That the trade union members on the committee should consult the officials of the Dock Workers' Union during Congress, in order to ascertain their views of the present position; and if thought desirable, a meeting of this joint committee should be convened to consider the matters in dispute, inviting representatives from both parties to be present.

At the second meeting, held in Manchester, the bakers' dispute in the Blackburn district was considered, and although the representatives from the Bakers' Union could not see their way to accept arbitration it was decided to hear representatives from both parties to the dispute, and after doing so to issue an award in the hope that both parties would accept it.

After hearing the statements of both parties, the case, as submitted, was carefully considered, and it was resolved—

- (1) That the Bakers' Union were wrong in withdrawing their men before first submitting their case to the arbitration of this committee, as provided for in Rule 7 of the rules adopted by the Trades Union and Co-operative Congresses for the guidance of the joint committee.
- (2) That the co-operative societies, with the view to arriving at a settlement with regard to the demands put forward, should have intimated earlier their willingness to submit the dispute to arbitration.
- (3) That the men be paid a bonus of 5s. per week on the wages fixed in the agreement of August, 1914, except in such cases where an increase has been given since the application was put forward; and, with regard to these, payment shall only be made of the difference between 5s. and the amount given.

We are pleased to state that the award was accepted by both parties.

The dispute at Plymouth was next considered, and a deputation from the Plymouth Society and the Dock Workers' Union was received. After hearing a statement from both parties, it was resolved—

That this committee is prepared to arbitrate in the dispute between the Dock Workers' Union and the Plymouth Society, if the two parties can arrange to submit their case.

The third meeting was held at Plymouth, to consider certain differences that had arisen between the Dock Workers' Union representatives and the Plymouth Society, under the terms of settlement arranged on 20th November, 1916, and the joint committee was requested to act under clause 3 of the settlement, which reads as follows:—

The dispute, as affecting the delivery staff having membership with the Dockers' Union, but whose class of labour outside the society is not yet organised by the Dockers' Union, to be settled through the joint board, by a commutation of wages and commission into a fixed wage.

After hearing the statements on behalf of the Dock Workers' Union and Plymouth Society, the committee gave the following award:—

That in lieu of commission in addition to wages, the following scale shall apply to the delivery staff as a minimum inclusive wage:—

	£	s.	d.	
Greengrocery vansalesmen	1	16	0	per week.
„ vansaleswoman	1	6	0	„
Laundry vansalesmen	1	18	0	„
Oil „	1	15	0	„
Bread „	1	18	0	„
Dairy floatmen	2	2	0	„
Dairy barrowmen	1	16	6	„

In the case of a dairy barrowman called upon to take charge of a dairy or some other responsible position, extra payment shall be made in accordance with custom in operation heretofore, i.e., a slightly increased amount per week.

The fourth meeting was convened at the request of the Warrington Co-operative Society, to consider a case submitted by them, in which it was stated that the society some months before agreed to adopt the “platform” suggested by the Operative Bakers' Union, and to give it a fair trial. This they had done, and now found that it worked hardly against the society, as they had the greatest difficulty in getting out supplies of bread to the branches, and it also necessitated the deliverers working long hours. The society asked that the men should commence working two hours earlier on two days a week, for which they were prepared to pay overtime rates, and not to exceed 48 hours per week, and they maintained that this would affect only six out of sixteen men employed.

The Bakers' Union representative said their union was in a somewhat difficult position. The members would not be prepared to accept worse conditions than prevailed outside the co-operative society's bakehouse. He,

however, suggested that one day's supply should always be kept in hand, and to effect this he thought their members might be prepared to assist the society.

It was pointed out, on behalf of the society, that this was impossible, on account of the limited accommodation, and the Ministry of Munitions had refused to allow an extension to the present bakehouse. Moreover, the demand for bread was greater than they could meet under the present conditions.

The general secretary of the Bakers' Union suggested another remedy, viz. : that the men might work overtime, and he was prepared to discuss and recommend this to the local branch of his union.

The committee considered the question fully, and eventually adopted the following resolution :—

That, in order to meet the difficulty which the Warrington Co-operative Society is experiencing with regard to the early delivery of bread, the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators recommend the Operative Bakers' Union to work a reasonable amount of overtime, even should that necessitate working after 6 p.m., this being considered an emergency measure owing to the Ministry of Munitions refusing to allow the society to extend its plant.

The fifth meeting was held in the boardroom of Holyoake House, Manchester, when many matters received consideration. The first business dealt with was the resolution passed at the Bristol Trades Union Congress, which will be found immediately after this report.

The Warrington dispute was further considered, as it was contended by the society that the Bakers' Union were not carrying out the award given by this committee at its previous meeting, but were introducing alterations in the "platform" which would seriously hamper the society.

The representatives from both sides were heard, and after a long discussion and questions from the chairman and members of the committee, being answered, the following matters were taken to be agreed :—

- (1) That the platform of hours and wages of July, 1915, as understood by its letter and custom of working, to be still the recognised basis.
- (2) That the question of working a reasonable amount of overtime, as given in the first award, should mean in addition to the hours recognised by that platform; that the interpretation of "reasonable" should not be more than eight hours per man in any one week.

The representative of the co-operative society offered, subject to the confirmation of the committee of management, on their part to make the following concessions on the existing platform, provided that the local bakers' operatives agreed to these conditions :—

- (1) That overtime rate should be paid to any man after he had put in eight hours' work on any day. By this concession the society, so long as it desires the overtime concession to be continued, would waive the clause which allows one day's work to consist of ten

hours, providing two hours had been worked less on some other day during the week, and agrees to each day standing by itself, and overtime to be paid after eight hours' work.

- (2) The society also agrees to the request of the operative bakers that the turns of the men shall be varied, so that no one shall be continually on one particular turn.

That, in view of these concessions, the local operative bakers agree not to press their request that the finishing time on Saturdays, including any overtime worked, should not be later than 4 p.m., and also their request that the overtime should not exceed two hours per day; the society on its part undertaking that the eight hours overtime allowance in any one week should be so worked that no day's work should be unreasonably long.

The chairman, on behalf of the committee, expressed the opinion that the concessions offered by the society were very fair indeed, and pressed the representatives of the Bakers' Union to go back and place them before their members with a view to their acceptance.

The Plymouth dispute was again under consideration, on the request of the Dock Workers' Union, who contended that the society had not honoured the award given by this committee on 13th December last.

A representative from the Dock Workers' Union waited upon the committee and stated their case. It was unfortunate that the Plymouth Society had not a representative present. This was accounted for by the fact that the committee were unaware until the morning of the meeting that the dockers' representatives would be present, therefore no notification of the meeting had been sent to the society. A request had, however, been made to the society that they should forward a statement in regard to the charges made by the Dockers' Union. Owing to the postal delay this statement did not come to hand before the closing of the meeting, therefore instructions were given to the secretary to express the regrets of the committee that the statement asked for had not been furnished, and at the same time ask if the society was honouring the award given by the committee on 13th December.

A full statement from the society came to hand next day, from which it was found that the society was paying the wages as fixed by the committee.

C. W. BOWERMAN,	} Joint
A. WHITEHEAD,	
	Secretaries.

26. TRADE-UNIONISM AND CO-OPERATION.

The following resolution was passed at the Birmingham Trades Union Congress, held in September last, and forwarded to the Co-operative Union for inclusion in the report to the Co-operative Congress. This has been before the United Board, who authorised the same to be submitted to the Congress.

The resolution is as follows :—

The Trades Union Congress is of opinion that the development of the co-operative movement is essential to an active trade union movement, and invites the Co-operative Union to appoint a committee of six to meet a similar number appointed by the Trades Union Congress to prepare plans for mutual assistance in developing the productive, distributive, and banking activities of the co-operative movement; always providing that the co-operative movement, as represented by the Co-operative Union Limited, is prepared to recognise the trade union rates of wages and conditions of employment as laid down by the trade unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress.

RESOLUTION :—

That this Congress adopts the resolution passed at the Trades Union Congress held in Birmingham, September, 1916, and authorises the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to appoint six representatives to meet a similar number to be appointed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee.

27. CO-OPERATIVE DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The constitution of this committee has been as follows :—

Representing the Co-operative Union Ltd.: Messrs. D. Evans, J. W. Hargreaves, J. Langley, and W. H. Watkins.

Representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society: Messrs. A. W. Golightly, G. Hayhurst, W. Hemingway, and T. E. Shotton.

Representing the Co-operative Productive Federation: Mr. R. Halstead.

Since last Congress the committee has met on one occasion. At this meeting Mr. G. Hayhurst was appointed chairman of the committee for the year. A report of the amount standing to the credit of the fund in the bank was given, which showed this to be £451.

Two cases were submitted for financial assistance. The first was an application by the Anchor Co-operative Society (London) for a grant to enable them to meet the costs incurred owing to the prosecution of the society for using an underground bakehouse. The prosecution was instituted by persons antagonistic to the co-operative movement, who saw that the success of the society in this department would have an effect on their trade. The society had, however, previously received permission to occupy the bakehouse, but, unfortunately, the necessary certificate had not been issued. The case was fully considered by the committee, and it was unanimously decided to accede to their request and pay the costs incurred, which amounted to £17. 4s.

The second case was one in which two committee-men of the Gloucester

Society, who were seeking re-election, had been attacked by a private trader in the city by the issue of handbills advising members to vote against the two individuals, alleging that they had voted "to take the Germ-Huns by the hand," because the two gentlemen had been present at the Lancaster Co-operative Congress, where the question of future international relations had been mentioned.

Both these gentlemen had sons serving in the British Army. They appealed to this committee for assistance from the fund, and this appeal was supported by the Western Sectional Board.

The committee unanimously agreed to the application, but gave instructions that the Union's solicitor should be consulted before any action was taken. This was done, and the solicitors took charge of the case, which was heard at the Gloucester Assizes, when the defendant withdrew the charges made, and eventually a verdict was given in favour of the plaintiffs and an injunction granted. The total costs incurred amount to £172. 8s.

G. HAYHURST, Chairman.

A. WHITEHEAD, Secretary.

THE CENTRAL BOARD.

28. HONORARY MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen are submitted for appointment as honorary members of the Central Board for the coming Congress year. They have been recommended by their Sectional Boards and approved by the United Board.

Section.	Members.
Midland	Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse.
Northern	Messrs. H. R. Bailey and W. Crooks.
North-Western	Messrs. C. J. Beckett and H. Stuttard.
Scottish	Messrs. D. H. Gerrard and A. Meldrum.
Southern	Messrs. A. H. D. Acland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, and H. J. May.
South-Western	Messrs. A. Bullock, R. R. Prynne, and C. Vaughan.
Western	Mr. E. R. Wood.

29. DECEASED MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

Since last Congress we have to record the death of one member of the Board, viz., Mr. S. Wheelhouse, of Barnsley, who was appointed a member of the North-Western Sectional Board in 1886 and served until 1892, was

again elected in 1897 to 1898 and re-elected in 1907, serving until 1912, from that time he has acted as an honorary member

Mr. Wheelhouse rendered valuable service to the cause of co-operation, and we desire to place on record our appreciation of his work.

THE SECTIONS.

30. REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS.

Detailed report of the work done by the sections and district associations will be found at the end of this report. We give below some of the principal matters dealt with in these reports for the purpose of bringing them before your notice.

(1) IRELAND.

(a) Propaganda.—The Propagandist Agent (Mr. R. Fleming) has been fully occupied during the year breaking up new ground, and as a result five societies have been formed, whilst efforts are being made to start societies in other towns. Provisional committees have been appointed at five different places to carry on the work of organisation.

The Organiser, being a Public Auditor under the Act, has conducted audits for twenty-four societies, the fees for which are paid over to the funds of the Union.

(b) New Societies.—Five new societies have been registered since last Congress, and the prospects of forming societies in a number of other places are very promising.

(c) Conferences.—The annual joint conference was held in Belfast, at which the annual report and cash statement were considered and a resolution adopted in support of the proposed summer school for 1917. This proposal has had to be abandoned owing to the high cost of living and expense of travelling. Conferences have been arranged for the Northern and Southern districts, at which the following subjects were considered:—"The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials," "The Economic Results of the War," and "Income Tax." Two special conferences of managers and secretaries have also been held at Lisburn and Dublin. The subjects considered were "The Evils of Overlapping" and "The Co-ordination of Urban and Rural Co-operation."

(d) General.—The members of the Board have been considering and advising societies on various matters affecting the interests of societies, and have attended and addressed many public meetings.

(2) MIDLAND.

(a) Propaganda.—The Sectional Propaganda Committee has been persevering in its endeavours to further the movement, and has taken full advantage of the services of the propagandist agent. Much active work has been done

in conjunction with several of the district associations, special canvassing being undertaken, followed by public meetings, with most satisfactory results.

(b) *Conferences.*—During the year nine sectional conferences have been held. The first, a special conference, held at Leicester to consider the attitude of the A.U.C.E. towards the recently formed Conciliation Boards. A second special conference was convened to discuss the subject of "Co-operative Banking." Conferences have been held at three different centres on the same day. The subject discussed at the first series was "The Economic Results of the War and their effect upon the Co-operative Movement." At the second series the question considered was "Income Tax." The last conference was held at Derby, and the title of the paper for consideration was "Co-operative Insurance, Collective and Industrial."

(c) *Overlapping.*—Several cases of overlapping have been dealt with by the Board, and in some cases boundary agreements fixed.

(d) *Convalescent Fund.*—Eighty-six societies are now members of the Convalescent Fund, an increase of five over the previous year. The income from subscriptions, donations, and the contributions of convalescents amounted to £1,304. 14s. 6d. Grants amounting to £604 have been made to 274 co-operators or their children

(e) *Educational.*—The Board has kept in touch by representation, on the executives of the educational and choral associations, with the educational work in the section.

(f) *Extension of Section.*—By the transfer of six societies to the Midland Section a new district association has been formed.

(3) NORTHERN.

(a) *Conference.*—A special conference was held at which the question of "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax" was considered.

(b) *Windy Nook Fund.* The amount paid out from this fund during the past year was £61. 19s., leaving at the end of 1916 a balance of £730. 12s. 3d. to the credit of the fund.

(c) *Convalescent Home.*—The home was in occupation by the military authorities as an auxiliary hospital for about sixteen months, and when vacated by the military, repairs, cleaning, &c., had to be done. From the time of reopening until August, the number of co-operators in residence was below the normal, but from August to the end of November the number was quite equal to former years. A deficiency of £186. 19s. 5½d. is shown.

(d) *Federation.*—During 1916 another group of societies federated for the purpose of acquiring a bakery, which is proving a great success. Steps are being taken to form another group.

(e) *General.*—Many matters of general interest are dealt with in the report, amongst which may be mentioned, "Hours and Wages Board," "Conciliation Board," "Substituted Female Labour," "1918 Congress," "Low Dividends," and "Excess Profits Duty."

(f) *Obituary.*—The report closes with obituary notices of two co-operators well known in the North.

(4) NORTH-WESTERN.

(a) Conferences.—Two ordinary conferences have been held during the year, the first at Sheffield to consider a paper on "Food Prices," the second at Oldham for consideration of the sectional and district reports. A special conference for the benefit of secretaries was held, and the subject discussed was "Dividends and Excess Profits Duty." In addition to these conferences, a special one of four arranged by the United Board was held at Leeds, when Mr. J. Pollitt introduced the subject of "Food Prices." Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., attended and gave an address, which was appreciated.

(b) Joint Meeting.—A joint meeting of the Board and representatives from hours and wages boards and districts associations was held to consider the rules proposed for the guidance of hours and wages boards.

(c) Sectional Demonstration.—The usual sectional demonstration and choir contest has not been held, but the Choral Association has held one meeting, at which Mr. W. H. Brown attended and gave an address on "Harmony in Democratic Movements." Forty-two choirs are now connected with the association.

(d) Boundaries.—The special committee appointed to deal with cases of overlapping have been called upon to deal with a number of cases, particulars of which will be found in the report.

(e) Amalgamations.—Two amalgamations have been effected during the year, and negotiations are proceeding in other cases.

(f) General.—The report deals with various other matters considered by the Board: "Income Tax Agitation," "Excess Profits Duty," "Representation on Governing Bodies," "Hours and Wages Boards," "Conciliation Boards," "National Policy," "Convalescent Homes," and "The Congress of 1918."

(5) SCOTTISH.

(a) Seventeenth Annual Scottish Conference.—This conference was held at Clydebank, at which there was an attendance of 400 delegates. The principal items of discussion were the reports and balance sheets of the section, the conference associations, and the Scottish Women's Guild. A paper was read by Mr. A. McNeil (lecturer to the Edinburgh University) on "Co-operative Banking."

(b) Conferences.—The largest and most widely representative conference ever held in Scotland took place in Glasgow, at which the subject discussed was "The Income Tax Question." A special conference was held to consider the question of "Closer Co-operation with the Progressive Forces." At this meeting a proposed constitution and objects was submitted. A joint conference, consisting of representatives from societies, educational committees, and conference associations was held. Mr. Watkins gave an address on the "Men's Guild Movement," and a resolution was adopted "That a Scottish District Council be formed for the purpose of propagating and controlling men's guilds in Scotland." One of the four conferences on "Food Prices," arranged by the United Board, took place at Edinburgh.

(c) Propaganda.—The national propaganda campaign has again been organised on similar lines to last year, and has been most successful, public meetings being arranged, and an extensive and vigorous open-air campaign is to take place during the spring and summer months.

(d) Summer School.—The second summer school was held at Bridge of Allan, and proved eminently successful.

(e) Amalgamation.—Amalgamations have been effected in two instances, and regret expressed that in another district the efforts were unsuccessful.

(f) General.—Many matters of interest have been dealt with by the Board, viz: "Overlapping," "Conciliation Board and Hours and Wages Boards," "Defence Board," &c.

(6) SOUTHERN.

(a) Progress.—The report opens with a general survey of the progress in the section, which appears very satisfactory.

(b) Conferences.—Six sectional conferences have been held during the year. The following subjects have been discussed:—"Excess Profits Duty," "Co-operative Insurance: Collective and Industrial," "Water Transport: Is it Practicable?" "Balance Sheets," "Food Prices: a Criticism of Food Prices Committee's Report," and "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax."

In addition to the foregoing, one of the special conferences arranged by the United Board to discuss the "Food Prices," was held in London.

(c) Propaganda.—Special propaganda work has received special attention by the Board during the year.

(d) Amalgamations.—Amalgamations by transfer of engagements have been fairly numerous during the past year, generally with good results. The report gives full particulars.

(e) Boundaries.—A considerable amount of work has been accomplished during the year with respect to boundaries between societies, with satisfactory results in many cases.

(f) Convalescent Fund.—The report shows increased membership. The amount received as subscriptions and donations total up to £1,084. 12s. 3d., an increase of £28. 14s. 6d. over previous year. It also gives particulars of the number of applications for benefits.

(g) Choral Association.—The report of the Choral Association is given, from which it will be noted that the choir and solo competitions have again been most successful.

(h) General.—Several important matters are mentioned in the report as having received the attention of the Board, the following amongst others:—"District Organisation," "The Income Tax Menace," "Legal Cases in the Section," "Sectional Offices," "Lantern Slides and Literature."

(7) SOUTH-WESTERN.

(a) Propaganda.—Arrangements are being made for special propaganda work in the section. In one district canvassers are being engaged, and in

another it is the intention of the executive committee to engage the services of a full-time organiser.

(b) Conferences.—Two sectional conferences have been held : at each of these, a comprehensive resolution accepting the principles of amalgamation of societies, wherever practicable, has been adopted.

In addition to the two conferences mentioned, one of the four special conferences arranged by the United Board to discuss the question of food prices, was held at Bristol.

(c) Joint Meetings.—Joint meetings of the Board with the district executives have been held, and schemes planned and arranged from which good results have accrued.

(d) Convalescent Fund.—The influence of the war has been felt by the fund in increased cost of maintenance, &c. Five societies have been admitted to membership and one society has discontinued its connection. The finances show substantial increases, but a reminder is given to societies that if the fund received contributions as per rule (1d. per member) a much larger increase would be shown. One hundred and twenty-three cases have been dealt with during the year at a total cost of £229—an average of about 37s. per case.

(8) WESTERN.

(a) Propaganda.—Under existing circumstances it has not been possible to carry out very much in the way of special propaganda. A special canvasser was engaged and did good work in the Cwmbwrla district.

(b) Conferences.—Two conferences have been held, the first at Swansea, when the subject of "Educational Work in the Section" was the theme for discussion. The second was held at Gloucester, at which the paper prepared by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on "Income Tax" was considered.

(c) Hours and Wages Board.—One Board has been formed for the whole of the section, consisting of 16 members, eight of these to be elected by the societies, four from the district executives, and four from the Statistical Board.

(d) Overlapping and Amalgamation.—Special efforts have been put forth with a view to amalgamation of three societies in the Eastern Valley, but, unfortunately, one of the societies failed to obtain the necessary majority of votes to carry this into effect. Efforts are still being made to accomplish the object.

(e) Swansea Congress.—Enthusiastic response has been given by societies in the section to make the Congress a success; but regrets are expressed that it has been found impossible to hold an exhibition in connection with Congress.

(f) Convalescent Fund.—Six societies have joined the fund during the year. The income shows an increase of £54 over the previous year. Twenty-eight societies have received benefit on behalf of 91 members, amounting to £201. The financial statement shows a good increase in the balance in bank at the end of the year.

FINANCES OF THE UNION.

31. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

The usual summary is given below, showing the principal items of expenditure of the funds of the Co-operative Union during the year 1916 as compared with 1915.

Details of the expenditure appear in the balance-sheet at the end of the report.

RECEIPTS.

	1915.		1916.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Subscriptions and Donations	16273 11 6	....	17432 10 1
Sale of Publications	2428 8 4	....	2527 7 11
Advertising.....	37 2 6	....	46 10 0
Dividend and Interest received	43 10 6	....	64 17 8
" " " credited	213 6 5	....	407 17 2
Balance of Bank Interest, Dividend, and Commission	389 8 3	....	407 14 5
Rent of Rooms—Holyoake House.....	64 2 6	....	105 2 10
	<u>£19449 10 0</u>		<u>£20992 0 1</u>

EXPENDITURE.

	1915.		1916.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Congress	1417 1 3	....	1087 19 5
United Board and Office Committee.....	337 17 5	....	385 12 8
Central Board Meeting	167 12 11	....	347 13 4
Joint Parliamentary Committee.....	205 14 8	....	349 10 1
Education Committee.....	2096 1 2	....	2101 17 8
Joint Propaganda Committee.....	156 18 8	....	223 7 10
Joint Exhibitions Committee.....	2 16 0	....	—
Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators .....	—	....	39 14 10
General Survey Committee	456 2 11	....	421 2 3
Co-operative Employment Sub-committee	2 0 0	....	19 9 2
Conciliation Boards .....	—	....	129 4 2
Conferences and Meetings attended on behalf of United Board	196 19 6	....	224 5 8
Foreign Congresses and International Alliance (Central Committee).....	—	....	—
Subscriptions and Grants.....	317 2 0	....	206 0 0
Legal Advice	182 4 11	....	150 6 1
General Printing	904 18 3	..	1126 12 2
Printing—Publications, &c.	1908 2 10	....	2317 7 0
Central Office Expenses	3286 9 11	....	3603 0 11
Law Cases and Opinions	470 8 0	....	—
Publications Committee	30 4 10	..	102 16 2
Joint Committee on Agriculture	18 16 2	....	—
Defence Committee .....	—	....	5 15 8
Pioneers Memorial Committee.....	0 18 0	....	—
	<u>£12158 9 5</u>		<u>£12741 15 1</u>

Sectional Expenses:—			1915.			1916.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
*Ireland	256	16	11			259	17	5
Midland	577	9	0			633	1	11
Northern	595	10	4			631	2	8
North-Western	1050	16	6			1315	12	10
*Scottish	1350	9	5			1404	3	6
Southern	1067	4	2			1186	19	2
South-Western	239	12	9			302	14	10
Western	277	15	5			302	5	9
					5415 14 6			6035 18 1
					17574 3 11			18777 13 2
Balance of Income over Expenditure.....					1875 6 1			2214 6 11
					£19449 10 0			£20992 0 1

* Under the new system of accounts the Irish Section has been debited with £30 grant to Women's Guild and the balance of Propagandist Agent's expenses, after deducting audit fees received. The Scottish Section has been debited with the grant to Women's Guild (£150), legal advice amounting to £64. 14s. 4d., and grants to Propaganda Fund £200.

32. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SOCIETIES.

We are pleased to report an increase of £1,158. 18s. 7d. in the income of the Union from contributions as compared with the previous year; this increase is considered very satisfactory.

The following is a summary of the contributions received from the societies in the various sections, and also the amounts received from publications, advertisements, dividends, and interest:—

	1914.			1915.			1916.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions from Sections:—									
Ireland	105	15	7	111	15	8	116	18	5
Midland	1,964	11	10	2,092	8	2	2,226	14	0
Northern	1,692	18	4	1,783	1	1	1,967	15	4
North-Western	6,380	16	8	6,707	6	0	7,048	15	6
Scottish	2,231	13	0	2,336	7	0	2,490	0	10
Southern	1,960	16	8	2,138	19	9	2,287	10	2
South-Western	537	13	11	568	9	5	709	13	9
Western	485	12	10	535	4	5	585	2	1
	15,360	18	10	16,273	11	6	17,432	10	1
Other Receipts—									
Publications, Advertising, Dividends,									
Interest, &c.	2,958	1	1	3,175	18	6	3,559	10	0
	£18,318	19	11	£19,449	10	0	£20,992	0	1

33. INVESTED FUNDS.

The Union has invested its surplus funds in the undermentioned societies :—

	£	s.	d.
English Co-operative Wholesale Society—Shares..	1,290	0	0
" " " Loans ..	6,142	6	4
Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society—Shares..	835	3	2
Co-operative Printing Society—Shares	50	0	0
Co-operative Newspaper Society—Shares	50	0	0
" " " Loans	4	15	9
Kinning Park Society—Shares and Loans	25	0	0
Manchester and Salford Society—Shares	5	12	10
	<hr/>		
	£8,402	18	1

34. CENTRAL PREMISES.

In our last report we promised that at the earliest opportunity a complete detailed statement of the Building Fund should be published. We regret to say that this has not yet been found possible, as several societies have not paid the amount guaranteed by them. We have pressed for payment of the amounts, so as to enable us to close the fund and prepare the statement, but up to the present unsuccessfully. The reason may, perhaps, be due to lack of means owing to the war, but if the societies would communicate their reasons for non-compliance with our requests the United Board would be in a position to consider whether such societies might be relieved from completing their payments.

The following are the amounts still owing, viz. :—

(a) £6. 10s. 6d., (b) £1. 1s., (c) £120, and (d) £11. 4s.

Holyoake House, the central premises, is proving very convenient, but it is quite within the bounds of possibility that in the course of a very few years the accommodation will be too limited, as the work of the Union is constantly increasing and new departments are being created, which necessitate an increase of the staff. This question will have to receive the consideration of the Board at an early date. The rooms have been found very useful and convenient by our trade union friends, many of the local unions have used the building for holding their regular meetings.

The educational department of the Union has also made good use of the class-rooms and lecture hall but, owing to the war, the number of classes have been reduced, as so many employés of societies have joined the forces who would under ordinary conditions have been in attendance at the classes.

GENERAL MATTERS.

35. ROCHDALE PIONEERS.

No action has been taken during the past year in connection with the memorial to be erected in Rochdale to perpetuate the memory of the original pioneers, as decided upon at the Dublin Congress. When times are once more normal the special committee appointed to deal with the matter will give the same their attention, and submit to Congress their recommendations.

36. GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE SURVEY.

Constitution of committee :—

Representing the Co-operative Union : Messrs. G. Bisset, W. H. Bryant, W. T. Charter, R. Fleming, W. Gregory, W. Millerchip, J. Pollitt, W. R. Rae, and W. H. Watkins.

Representing the Co-operative Productive Federation : Messrs. R. Halstead and A. Mann.

Representing the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild : Mrs. M. Hunter.

Chairman : Mr. W. R. Rae.

Secretaries : Mr. A. Whitehead, general secretary ; Messrs. T. Horrocks, C. E. Wood, and F. Hall, assistant secretaries.

Sub-committees :—

Constitution and Administration : Messrs. W. Gregory (chairman), W. T. Charter, J. Pollitt, and W. H. Watkins. Secretary, Mr. T. Horrocks.

Education : Messrs. W. R. Rae (chairman) and A. Mann. Secretaries, Mr. C. E. Wood and Professor Hall, M.A.

Production and Distribution (or Trade Sub-committees) : Mr. W. Millerchip (chairman), Mrs. M. Hunter, Messrs. G. Bisset, W. H. Bryant, R. Fleming, and R. Halstead. Secretary, Professor F. Hall, M.A.

SECOND INTERIM REPORT.

INTRODUCTION.

In our introduction to the interim report which we presented to the Lancaster Congress we recounted the circumstances that had led to the formation of the Survey Committee ; we noted the terms of reference ; and we reported upon the work which the committee had done from its establishment up to the date of the preparation of the first interim report.

Since that report was prepared, the Survey Committee through its three sub-committees has continued its work, though progress has been much hindered through depletion of the Union's staff on account of enlistments and

other causes. The full committee has met on three occasions, and the sub-committees more frequently. We regret to say that since our first interim report was published Miss M. Llewelyn Davies, who sat as representative of the English Women's Co-operative Guild, has resigned her seat on the Survey Committee on account of her dissenting from the committee's decision in regard to procedure.

Mr. H. C. Gray, who had acted as secretary of the Constitution and Administration Sub-committee, resigned his position on leaving the staff of the Union in June, 1916; and Mr. A. Baxter resigned his position as joint secretary of the Production and Distribution Sub-committee on joining the army in October, 1916. Both these gentlemen have been thanked for the valuable services rendered by them during their tenure of office. Mr. T. Horrocks has resigned his position of joint secretary of the Production and Distribution Sub-committee on being appointed secretary of the Constitution and Administration Sub-committee vice Mr. H. C. Gray, resigned. Professor Hall has been a joint secretary of the Education Sub-committee since his appointment as Adviser of Studies in 1915, and a joint secretary of the Production and Distribution Sub-committee since September, 1915. On the approaching completion of their work as members of the Education Sub-committee, Messrs. W. R. Rae and A. Mann, with the secretaries of the committee, were added to the Constitution and Administration Sub-committee, and have formed a section of that committee, to which has been allocated a portion of the full committee's work.

We have to state that it has not been possible for us to complete the whole of our work in time to report to the Swansea Congress; but it is now so far advanced that we are able to say the final report will be presented to the Congress of 1918. We have, however, been able to complete that section of our work which has reference to Co-operative Education, Co-operative Literature, and Co-operative Propaganda, and now have pleasure in presenting our report and recommendations on these matters. This report covers so much ground and contains so many important recommendations that we believe it will prove advantageous to consider it separately at the Swansea Congress, and to consider next year our report on trade matters and constitution, when more time will then be available for discussing these two sections.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN REGARD TO CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION, LITERATURE, AND PROPAGANDA.

In the Interim Report presented to the Lancaster Congress we surveyed the history and the present position and organisation of Co-operative Education. We now have pleasure in submitting our recommendations in regard to this branch of co-operative activity, and our survey of, and recommendations in regard to, Co-operative Literature and Co-operative Propaganda.

A.—EDUCATION.**CONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY.**

We have considered various factors affecting the educational work of the movement, and are convinced that the stimulation of a wider interest in educational work is a matter of greater urgency than is commonly assumed. We desire the movement to realise that co-operative education is not a luxury, or something divorced from the general work of the movement and the other forces that are building up the movement; but that it is a necessity if the movement is to grow and become strong on all sides. We realise that machinery does not of itself create enthusiasm or wider interest; but we feel that if the wider interest is to be created and have opportunities for expressing itself, suitable machinery is required. We have, therefore, taken into consideration the suitability of the constitution of the Central Educational Authority of the movement now represented by the Central Education Committee; and we advise an alteration in its constitution on the following lines :—

1. NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE AUXILIARY COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL PURPOSES.

The constitution of a widely representative body, with advisory functions and named "The National Co-operative Auxiliary Council for Educational and General Purposes,"* with the following constitution :—

The Chairman of the Central Board (who shall act as President of the Council).

† Nine Representatives from the Central Board of the Co-operative Union.

‡ Nine (maximum) , ,	Sectional Educational Associations.
Four , ,	Co-operative Wholesale Society.
Two , ,	Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.
One , ,	Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society.
One , ,	Co-operative Productive Federation.
One , ,	International Co-operative Alliance.
One , ,	Women's Co-operative Guild (England and Wales).
One , ,	Women's Co-operative Guild (Scotland).
One , ,	Women's Co-operative Guild (Ireland).
One , ,	National Co-operative Men's Guild.
One , ,	National Co-operative Managers' Association.
One , ,	Co-operative Secretaries' Association.
One , ,	Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees.
One , ,	<i>Co-operative News</i> (Editor).
One , ,	<i>Scottish Co-operator</i> (Editor).
One , ,	Co-operators' Education League (outlined below).

* This Council, it will be noticed, is advisory (and only advisory) for general as well as for educational purposes, as will appear when the committee's final report on Constitution and Administration is presented.

† Two representatives from the North-Western Section and one from each other section.

‡ Two representatives from the North-Western Section and one from each other section where such an association exists.

and one representative from such other co-operative organisations, approved by the Central Board, as may be authorised by the Central Board to appoint for this purpose.

The secretary to this Council should, we recommend, be one of the permanent officials of the Co-operative Union appointed by the Central Board.

The Council, we suggest, should meet three times a year, the expenses of the Council members being met by the societies or bodies they represent.

2. EDUCATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

To carry on the detailed committee work of the educational department the committee recommend the appointment (appointed annually by the Council from its own members, and confirmed by the Central Board) of an executive of seven members, to meet as required, with expenses paid out of the funds of the Union. We recommend that this executive consist of four members representing the sections, two members representing the educational associations, and one member from the representatives of other bodies that are represented on the Council, with a member of the permanent staff of the Union as secretary to the committee.

The representative character of the Council would, the committee think, lead to a better co-ordination of the educational and other work of the movement, and promote extension on lines most likely to meet the movement's needs, whilst the constitution of the executive would enable the necessary administrative work to be carried on efficiently and in accordance with the various needs of the movement as expressed through the Council.

FUNDS.

We have also given a considerable amount of attention to the question of funds and strongly recommend—

1. The allocation, by the Union, for educational purposes of not less than 20 per cent of the subscriptions paid by society members of the Union.

2. The issue of an appeal to committees of societies, particularly educational committees, inviting subscriptions to a fund out of which the Educational Executive would make grants to assist the development of co-operative education in sections and districts where lack of funds prevents educational activity. This fund would be known as a "Co-operative Education Extension Fund."

3. That attention be given to the organisation of a central library and the provision of book-boxes in order to enable students to take advantage of the library facilities, an allocation of funds for library purposes being made annually by the educational executive. This library fund should also provide for the development of such aids to teaching and lecturing as slides, pictures, charts, or other illustrations as may be required in the development of the work set forth in the Educational Programme. A charge might be made for the use of these

book-boxes, slides, and other aids as a set off against the original and annual cost.

4. That the Blandford Fund, collected at Congress, which now provides two scholarships (the balance of the fund being devoted to charity) should be divided equally between the scholarship fund and charity. These scholarships, which are at present utilised solely for co-operative tours of inspection, might, we consider, be granted alternatively as research scholarships, tenable at Holyoake House or other approved centre. The amounts collected for the Blandford Fund and the manner of their allocation are given below :—

	Amount Collected.		Amount for Scholarship.		Amount for Charity.
	£		£		£
1908	74	.....	20	.....	54
1909	100	.....	20	.....	80
1910	87	.....	20	.....	67
1911	94	.....	20	.....	74
1912	89	.....	20	.....	69
1913	68	.....	20	.....	48
1914	76	.....	20	.....	56
1915	95	.....	20	.....	75
1916	71	.....	20	.....	51

5. That a budget be prepared annually by the Educational Executive of the Council, showing the estimated expenditure for educational purposes for the ensuing year, the budget to be submitted and approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee (which is to be set up if the committee's recommendations in regard to constitution and administration are adopted), or such other executive committee of the Central Board as may be decided upon.

RESEARCH AND OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.

The general educational fund derived from the percentage grant mentioned above should make it possible, with assistance from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and other bodies, to provide scholarships covering not only periods of residence at summer schools and other centres of instruction, but also visits to factories and centres for research, leading ultimately to a development of this branch of our work along lines leading to the organisation, maintenance, and equipment of a co-operative college.

CO-OPERATORS' EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE.

We also strongly recommend the establishment of a co-operators' educational league, in which the Students' Fellowship and College Herald Circle should ultimately be merged. This league would take into membership all those in the movement who are interested in co-operative educational work, and would be in effect a mobilisation of the educational forces of the movement. This league would work under the direction of the National

Co-operative Auxiliary Council and Educational Executive, which would find in it an agency for recruiting teachers, students, and workers, and a medium through which the executive could extend its influence in the various districts where co-operation exists. The membership roll of the league would provide a select register of the persons in the movement interested in educational work, and this register would be of great service when notifying forthcoming educational fixtures, advertising text-books, and in other ways.

A MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

In connection with this league and the general educational work of the movement, we recommend the issue of a monthly journal, which would give reports of the bodies associated with the Central Educational Executive and matters of educational interest, and would afford a medium of communication between the Educational Executive on the one side, and members of the league and other persons interested in education on the other. In this journal there would be, in addition to reviews of the text books and pamphlets issued by the Union and other publishers, articles likely to be of service to our teachers and students, and advertisements of our educational publications and fixtures. The publication of the quarterly magazine, "The Co-operative Educator," by the present Central Education Committee, is a step in this direction, which we heartily approve, and we recommend that it be issued monthly, as soon as circumstances permit, to meet the suggestion made above.

SUMMER SCHOOLS AND WEEK-END SCHOOLS FOR CO-OPERATORS.

We are impressed with the great value of the summer schools and the work done at them. The attendance has rapidly and consistently increased; and we strongly recommend the development of this phase of educational activity. We consider that the schools should be fostered until there is at least one school in each section. The attendance at the summer schools is already so large and so rapidly increasing that the committee are convinced the time has now arrived when the Union should erect or lease for a term of years a suitable building in an appropriate centre for summer-school purposes. The building could be used for summer-school purposes for at least four months each year, and for vacation, week-end, and the growing number of other schools at other periods of the year. The committee are of the opinion this would prove more economical than renting buildings for short periods, and would save much trouble, anxiety, and expense in engaging temporary domestic staffs; but it would not avoid the necessity for providing temporary schools on present lines in other centres. It would, however, provide opportunities for development of summer-school work and a base of operations for other schools.

The committee think the co-operative summer-school idea should be further applied in the development, already begun, of short week-end schools in various districts. These schools would not only provide educational opportunities in themselves, but also as a means of stimulating interest in the general educational work of the movement. Bearing upon this question is

the utilisation of the Easter week-end, which might be employed for this purpose, either by decentralising the present Easter week-end gathering or supplementing it. It is found that individuals who would foregather at Easter co-operative gatherings are often prevented by the expense of travelling long distances; and whilst we recognise the great value of an annual national gathering at which representatives from various parts of the country may meet, it seems desirable to have, in addition, local gatherings to meet the needs of those who cannot afford to take the long journey to the national meeting.

TRAVELLING TEACHERS.

We are also of the opinion that travelling teachers are not only a future need, but a pressing present need of the educational department. We are of the opinion that the time is over-ripe for the appointment of two or three such teachers. Towards the expense of these teachers, the societies in the area covered by their work, and particularly those engaging the services of the teachers, should be asked to contribute. Classes for employees and others have frequently been abandoned on account of the difficulty of securing suitable teachers; and we are glad to learn that the Central Board have already given their sanction to the appointment of such travelling teachers as we suggest, the war having caused a delay in the actual appointment.

LECTURE DEPARTMENT.

We are of the opinion that the time has arrived when the Union should appoint on its educational staff, lecturers whose services would be available for societies for their lectures, demonstrations, week-end schools, conferences, and similar meetings. During the summer months the services of these lecturers would be available for summer-school purposes. A suitable charge being made to societies, the cost of such lecturers to the Union need not be large, whilst the benefit from the point of view of education and propaganda would be very great.

LANTERN SLIDES AND CINEMA FILMS.

We strongly recommend the development of the slide department, and the addition of cinema films as a means of making the co-operative appeal as effective as possible; and we are glad to learn that the Central Board have given general approval to such a development. Such a development would be of great assistance to societies in their lecture and class work, to the proposed lecturers on the Union staff, and to the educational staff of the Union in their class work.

LIBRARY FACILITIES.

The committee are of the opinion that the time has come when the movement should provide itself with an up-to-date library, such as would be attractive to students and other readers, and enable the Union to carry on its educational work as efficiently as possible. We are also of the opinion that something should be done to organise a lending library, so that students

and classes working under co-operative auspices could consult the best technical and other works available. In this connection we have had the advantage of consulting a representative of the Fabian Society, which society for many years has prepared and issued book boxes for the service of individual students and classes. We believe, from the information we possess, and from the experience of the Fabian Society, that such boxes would meet a need and would be widely used in the movement. There has recently been established in London a library organised for the purpose of assisting students and classes by lending books which are not otherwise available and are too dear for the students to purchase. We have pleasure in bringing this library to the notice of co-operative committees and students.

LIBRARY FOR SECRETARIES AND OTHER OFFICIALS.

The committee have heard with pleasure of the recent establishment of a secretaries' library at the suggestion of the Co-operative Secretaries' Association and the Central Education Committee, and are convinced that much good will result from the establishment of such a library. We are of the opinion that this idea might have a more extensive adoption by the formation of a special co-operative officials' library, as a section of the General Co-operative Library at Holyoake House.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT AND TRADE INFORMATION BUREAU.

The committee are of the opinion that the general library should be a centre for the collection of information regarding the co-operative movement at home and abroad, and likely to be helpful in its development, so that the library would become a valuable centre for research and reference purposes worthy of the movement.

The committee welcome the approval of the Central Board to the proposal to enlarge the purposes for which co-operative statistics have been previously compiled, and to establish a definite statistical department and trade information bureau in connection with the library and educational department; and we are glad to learn that the organisation of such a department has already been undertaken. The department and bureau will serve many useful purposes, among which we select the following as being specially worthy of note :—

- (1) The analysis of the general figures of the movement's progress, showing the operations of societies through a series of years, would put us in possession of important data regarding the changes that are taking place in co-operative administration, *e.g.*, alterations in purchases per member, capital per member, reserve funds in relation to capital, profits in relation to trade, sales in relation to membership, alterations in working expenses, and differences between different districts and sections in these matters. The results of such analyses, we believe, will stimulate inquiry and lead to greater efforts to improve the efficiency of the administration of the movement.

(2) The consideration of the relations of our own development to development outside, *e.g.*, proportion of our membership to population, our sales in proportion to the national income, our methods of working and use of profits as compared with continental societies, changes in the direction of expenditure of the national income, which would lead to the opening up of new departments to meet new demands.

(3) The preparation of statistics bearing upon the cost of administering various departments to be found in our societies. For example, information could be collected concerning the amount of capital required for the working of different departments, the amount of trade requisite before different departments could be opened with a reasonable prospect of success, the working expenses in these different departments and the various methods of conducting them.

(4) The presentation to Congress of the Annual Statistics in a form which will call attention to salient points, facilitate comparison with previous years, and enable the progress of the movement to be more accurately gauged.

We strongly believe that information of this kind would be useful to the societies which made preliminary inquiries of the department, thereby saving themselves much expense, and its availability would very considerably raise the prestige of the Union and increase its utility in educational work, since much of the information collected could be used in, and disseminated through, the classes and summer schools organised under the auspices of the Union, and also through the literature issued by the Union.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

The committee are strongly of the opinion that efforts should be made to develop higher education for co-operators. We feel that this is necessary if we are to have a sufficiency of adequately-trained officials and leaders. In this connection we recognise three important branches of work :—

(1) That conducted by national authorities. We strongly urge that co-operators should press forward for the reform of our national education system, until it is possible for co-operators and all other persons to pass from the elementary school to the university unhindered by questions of expense, if qualified by ability.

(2) Joint action with other working-class organisations, *e.g.*, Ruskin College, Working Men's College, and the Workers' Educational Association, in providing education of college type in institutions in which we, in co-operation with these other working-class organisations, have complete control in arranging the curriculum, in appointing teachers, and working out a policy consonant with the joint needs of working-class organisations.

(3) The establishment of a co-operative college under the control of the Co-operative Educational Executive, in order that our special needs may be met. The committee feel it is not possible that our needs will

ever be met in any institution except one over which we have complete control (a) in deciding the curriculum, (b) appointing the teachers, (c) collecting the students, and (d) framing the general policy and maintaining the co-operative atmosphere. This college would have for its object the training of co-operators in social subjects and the employees also in technical subjects, and the inspiring of its students for co-operative service. The committee feel that no other institution would, or could, do this work as well as we ourselves could do it. The establishment of the college could be gradually approached by extending the duration of the Summer School, and taking into residence in a suitable hostel, students who would find their centre of study and research at Holyoake House, and by encouraging societies to give scholarships tenable at the Summer Schools and at Holyoake House. The matter need not be further detailed here, as it is fully treated in the Co-operative Union paper, "The Co-operative College," and the Central Education Committee have been charged with the duty of formulating a scheme for bringing the college into existence.

The Work of the Education Department in relation to other Organisations.

(a) EDUCATION COMMITTEES IN RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

GENERAL.

The committee feel that there is a great need for stimulating the committees of these societies to greater educational activity. In our opinion, these committees have not, as a whole, sufficiently risen to the task imposed upon them as educators of co-operative opinion. Their connection with the central authority is only very loose; and with a few notable exceptions very little local initiative has been displayed. This may be due to the frequent changes in the personnel of the committees. In some cases, membership of the educational committee is looked upon merely as a stepping stone to membership of the management committee, whose members have what some consider greater responsibilities and are more highly remunerated. In other cases, there is lack of close co-operation between the education committee and the management committee; and in a few cases the relations are not sufficiently friendly. *In our opinion the educational work of a society is worthy of the best effort that can be put into it, and should claim the services of the best men and women that can be found for it.* The committee charged with the educational work should work in close co-operation with the management committee, and with the Men's and Women's Guilds, employees' associations, and other similar organisations, either through a system of representation or through frequent conferences or consultations. Much educational work could and should be done in co-operation with trade unions, trades councils, and

similar working-class organisations. In large societies, the educational work should be so extensive and important as to justify the appointment of a whole-time official as secretary. Upon this matter and the constitution of education committees, recommendations are made below.

GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL WORK.

We regret to record the fact that many societies have recently reduced their educational grant. In some cases, this reduction seems to have resulted from dissatisfaction with the manner in which the educational grant has been expended; but there is clear evidence that the societies which are progressing fastest have not stinted wise expenditure for educational purposes. The committee reiterate their opinion that education is a necessity not a luxury, and expenditure upon it should be considered as essential as expenditure upon propaganda and advertising, and for other trade purposes. We therefore strongly urge societies not already making education grants to make them and secure their wise expenditure.

In our opinion the dependence of educational funds upon allocations from the trading surplus is unsatisfactory. It obscures the fact that co-operative education is a necessity—not a luxury or a competitor with other claimants like dividend for a share of the profits. We therefore suggest that educational grants should not be based on a proportion of profits, but based on a definite sum per member per year. The annual grant, in our opinion, should be in no case less than one shilling per member, and ought to be much more if the educational work of the movement—nationally and locally—is to be what it ought to be. Some societies already give more than this amount, and the committee welcome their action and would press other societies to follow the example.

CONSTITUTION.

The foundation principles governing the constitution and work of an educational committee should be the initiating, fostering, and developing of educational work of a co-operative and allied character. The educational work of a society being closely connected with the success of the trading and general social activities of the society, the constitution of an educational committee should be such as will promote the closest possible relationship between the educational committee, the management committee, the guilds, and such other organisations connected with the society as are of an educational, propagandist or social nature. The employees should also be closely linked up with the educational committee and its work. In accordance with the principles stated above, we suggest that educational committees in retail distributive societies be constituted on the following lines:—

SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION FOR EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES IN RETAIL
DISTRIBUTIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Organisations or Sections Represented.	Number of Representatives.	
	In Large Societies.	In Small Societies.
Management Committee	2 persons.	1 person.
Members specially elected for educational purposes	4 „	3 persons.
Women's Guild	1 person.	1 person.
Men's Guild	1 „	1 „
Officials (Managers and Secretarial Staff)	1 „	1 „
Other Employees	1 „	1 „

Where the education committee is constituted in accordance with the foregoing suggestions, we recommend that it should also take charge of the propaganda and publicity department of the society. Detailed methods of selecting the members for the education committee can be left for societies to determine according to local circumstances.

[N.B.—It is very important in making the selection of members of the education committee that the special nature of the work of the committee be borne in mind.]

In societies with a membership of 10,000 and upwards we recommend the appointment of a special permanent education secretary (man or woman), and a special permanent secretary for publicity and propaganda, whilst for smaller societies we recommend a permanent official (man or woman) for education and propaganda jointly.

The operation of the time-limit works very disadvantageously in the case of education committees. We recommend that time-limits be abolished, and that members of such committees be elected for a minimum period of two years with eligibility for re-election. The arrangements for retiral and election may be left to local decision; but it is advisable that not more than one-half of the members retire each year.

In cases where a society's operations cover a wide area we recommend the formation of district educational committees with local powers, working with the educational committee, and linked up with it in such a way, or ways, as may be found locally desirable.

In the case of large and fairly-large societies, where active educational work is undertaken, we recommend that quarterly meetings of members for the consideration of educational matters be arranged, distinct from the ordinary quarterly meetings for the trading business of the society. At such educational quarterly meetings a report of the educational committee should be presented for consideration; and the meeting utilised for the purpose of rousing and sustaining interest in educational work and for outlining and developing the

educational policy of the society. As far as possible, the educational committees of all societies should carry out the suggestions contained in the programme issued by the Educational Department of the Co-operative Union. The education committee should meet the management committee from time to time—say, quarterly or half-yearly—for the purpose of discussing matters of common interest and securing co-ordination and harmonious working in the efforts of both committees. It is desirable, also, that the two committees should annually meet the employees in a gathering of a social character, at which the educational work of the society might be a subject of consideration. The technical training of employees might be discussed at a meeting of employees, management committee, and education committee specially convened annually for this purpose. The technical and co-operative education is far more important than has been realised by many societies, and we strongly urge management and education committees to devote their immediate attention to this matter in accordance with the suggestions of the Education Department of the Co-operative Union.

(b) EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

GENERAL.

We have previously remarked that these associations have not completely fulfilled the high hopes once held of them. The machinery of their organisation is the subject of special recommendations made below. The only suggestion we have to make here in this respect is that they should bring into association with them more committees and guild branches than are at present in membership. We think the associations should make a vigorous canvass of all unattached societies' committees, branches of the guilds, and associations of employees, as well as interested individual co-operators, in order to secure their membership. Initiative, enthusiasm, and energy are essential to success; and the associations in some sections show no lack of these qualities, the inadequacy of their funds being the principal factor which restricts their operations. We are of the opinion that there is a large amount of educational zeal in the movement which has hitherto been insufficiently enlisted for our educational work; and we recommend that individual members should be eligible for membership of the educational associations with representation on the executive committee of the association on the lines of the recommendation made below. For this purpose, members of the Educational League suggested above will be recommended as eligible for membership of the educational association of the section in which they live. We believe that two excellent results will follow if this recommendation be adopted.

In the first place, we should attract to our educational work and retain for it a large number of men and women who are now drawn off into other reform movements.

In the second place, we believe the accession of zealous and enthusiastic educationalists, who for various reasons cannot pass through the present approaches to membership of the associations, would do a great deal to

maintain the initiative and vigour which these associations must possess if they are to fulfil their mission.

We strongly urge the establishment of a closer connection between each educational association and the Sectional Board of the area in which it operates. The executives of these two bodies should meet in consultation at least once each year; and the Sectional Board should be represented on the executive of the association. Upon these matters, also, recommendations are made below.

The committee also think the educational associations should come into closer touch with the local educational committees and other organisations performing educational functions in their area. Schemes for achieving this end could best be worked out by those with greater knowledge of local conditions than this committee possesses; but conferences with the committees or groups of committees in contiguous areas for the discussion of problems not usually dealt with at larger conferences might be one of the methods adopted; greater efforts might be made to stimulate class work; and united efforts in educational experiments might be made. If the educational associations rise to their full responsibilities and opportunities they may do much to relieve the Central Educational authority of much of the work it now does, thus giving the central authority opportunities for opening up new spheres of activity. It may ultimately be desirable to have a special educational organiser in each section; and we recommend this matter for future consideration.

Some suggestions in regard to the work of an educational association are contained in the Co-operative Union pamphlet "The Work of an Educational Association," and these suggestions we commend to the associations for careful consideration and adoption.

CONSTITUTION.

We recommend that the word "committees" be omitted from the name of these associations, and that they be known in future as Sectional Educational Associations.

We recommend also the following :—

BASIS OF CONSTITUTION.

Eligibility for Membership.

(1) All societies in the section, through their educational committee, where one exists, and the management committee where there is no educational committee.

(2) The sectional board of the Co-operative Union as an ex-officio member of the association.

(3) All branches of the guilds (men's and women's).

(4) All employees of co-operative societies through their group organisations, the employees of each society forming a group for this purpose.

(5) The National Co-operative Managers' Association.

(6) 'The Co-operative Secretaries' Association.

(7) Individual members of the Co-operators' Educational League resident in the section (but with only one collective vote in the election of the executive).

Executive.

From this general membership an executive of twelve members (including officers) to be elected on the following basis :—

A president.

Four persons representing societies, of whom at least three must be members of special educational committees.

One person representing the Women's Guilds.

One person representing the Mens' Guilds.

One person representing the employees.

One person representing other members of the association. With

One person representing, and appointed by, the Sectional Board (preferably the representative of the Sectional Board on the proposed Advisory Council for Educational and General Purposes) who shall pay the expenses of their representative.

With the consent of the Educational Association of any section the Educational Executive of the Co-operative Union may appoint from their number or staff an additional member of the committee, but shall pay the expenses of any person so appointed.

The association shall, in addition, complete the membership of the Executive by appointing a secretary, or secretaries, one of whom, for the purpose of securing co-ordination of effort with the Sectional Board, we recommend should be the Co-operative Union sectional secretary. Whilst the persons appointed to the executive shall be representative, as suggested above, the president and the secretary, or secretaries, may be nominated by, and shall be elected by, the whole of the members, except that the representative of the Sectional Board shall be appointed by the Sectional Board. The secretary, or secretaries, shall be entitled to vote at executive and all other meetings. The president shall be *ex-officio* chairman of the executive. The executive shall appoint from its own number a treasurer.

The members of the executive shall be elected for a period of two years, retiring members to be eligible for re-election.

The method of retirement may be left to be decided by each association for itself.

In all elections each committee, guild branch, association, or group shall have one vote.

[N.B.—The associations should be registered and become members of the Co-operative Union.]

INCOME.

The annual subscriptions shall be :—

Educational and management committees of societies, with fewer than 1,000 members

£ s. d.

0 10 6

	£	s.	d.
Ditto, with 1,000 to 5,000 members	*1	1	0
Ditto, with over 5,000 members	*2	2	0
Guild branches—under 50 members, 2s. 6d. ; over 50.....	0	5	0
Employees' associations—under 50 members, 2s. 6d. ; over 50...	0	5	0
Other associations	0	5	0

Members of the Educational League, 3d. each, remitted to the association by the Co-operators' Educational League from the subscriptions paid to the League by its members.

Such annual grants as may be allocated by the Co-operative Union through its educational executive.

* We recommend these subscriptions in order to make the associations financially strong ; but the minimum subscription should be 10s. 6d.

EXPENSES.

The railway fares and other out-of-pocket expenses of members of the executive shall be paid from the funds of the association when they are attending conferences and executive meetings, or are engaged on deputation or other work on behalf of the association. The secretaries and treasurer shall, for the present, be honorary officials ; but the association shall grant them an honorarium annually if it so desires.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Copies of the minutes of all executive and general meetings shall be forwarded to the Education Department of the Co-operative Union. A report of work done by each educational association shall also be forwarded quarterly to the Education Department of the Union.

The educational associations should maintain a close connection with the Education Department of the Co-operative Union, and for this purpose we recommend that the Educational Executive of the Union should meet the executive of each association at least once a year to discuss schemes of work ; and we further recommend that the educational associations prepare annually a scheme of work for the year upon which the papers of their conferences should be based.

When conditions permit, it would be helpful if a joint meeting or conference of the executives of all educational associations could be held, and this conference would be the more helpful if arranged jointly with the Educational Executive of the Co-operative Union.

NOTE.—When these recommendations, with or without amendment, are adopted, we recommend that the Education Department of the Co-operative Union draft a model code of rules for educational associations in accord with the proposals as approved.

(c) THE FEDERAL SOCIETIES.

GENERAL.

The committee consider that organisations like the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society ought to

do more in the field of education. We view with regret the fact that these organisations make little or no effort to provide educational facilities for their employees, and particularly do we regret that no persistent attempt is made to spread a knowledge of co-operative principles among these employees. In the opinion of the committee it is essential to the success of the movement that all co-operative employees should be good co-operators as well as efficient workers. Whilst large numbers of co-operative employees employed by our federal societies are enthusiastic co-operators, it still remains true that no organised effort is made to reach them by other co-operative organisations, unless they happen to be members of a retail distributive society, and, as a consequence, large numbers are not at the present time touched by co-operative propaganda and education. Hence the need for action on the part of the federal societies.

Many enlightened employers now support or organise technical classes for their employees; and we think the time has arrived when our Wholesale Societies in particular should co-operate with the educational department of the Co-operative Union in organising technical classes or establishing, on co-operative lines, trade schools in various centres for the purpose of providing adequate technical training for employees of all grades and classes in the co-operative movement. This work could be begun at once at Holyoake House, and afterwards extended to other centres. Scholarships tenable at the co-operative summer schools, and other scholarships tenable at other centres of instruction, or enabling their holders to visit centres where their industries are established, might be provided by the federal societies with great advantage to themselves, their employees, and the movement generally.

CONSTITUTION.

We have already recommended that the Wholesale Societies be urged to undertake educational work at their various works, branches, dépôts, and other centres. This recommendation has been made in the belief that co-operative progress will in large measure depend upon the technical and co-operative education of all co-operative employees.

In harmony with the recommendations referred to above, we therefore submit suggestions and recommendations regarding the necessary organisation for carrying on educational work at these establishments. This educational work will consist partly of technical education and partly of co-operative education. For the technical education the facilities of local educational authorities should be utilised; but special classes will often require to be organised by the Wholesale Societies themselves. This work would be stimulated, and the movement kept in closer touch with it, if a special educational committee were set up at each of the various centres. These committees should also be charged with the special duty of organising specialised co-operative and social education. Such committees should be representative of the committee of the Wholesale Societies, of the management staff at the

centre, and of the employees. The constitutions we suggest for this purpose are as follows :—

At Headquarters, Branches, and Depôts.

A committee representing the directors, the heads of departments, and the employees; the number of members of such committees varying with the size of the centre and the volume and variety of work to be undertaken.

At Productive Works.

A committee representing the management staff and the various sections of the employees.

NATURE OF WORK.

We have already suggested that the encouragement of employees to take advantage of the facilities of local authorities for technical education should be one of the duties of such committees. The formation by the committee itself of supplementary technical classes and classes in co-operation and other social subjects should be another feature of the work of these committees. Lectures on co-operative and general subjects should be another feature. Such committees should also stimulate interest in the correspondence classes and general educational work of the Co-operative Union; and the Wholesale Societies might advantageously grant Co-operative Summer School Scholarships to employees at the various establishments, thus linking up the workers at these centres with the workers and members of the retail distributive societies. Where a distributive society exists in the vicinity of a centre of the Wholesale Societies' activities, much good would result from co-operation between the education committees of the two organisations. For the purpose of co-ordinating and developing the work at the various centres, the Wholesale Societies are recommended to form from their boards of directors an education sub-committee, or delegate the charge of educational matters to one of the existing sub-committees.

The education committees of the various works, depôts, and other centres should, we recommend, be linked up with the educational association of the section in which they exist; and they will find it advantageous to co-operate with branches of the Workers' Educational Association where such exist in the district.

FUNDS.

For the purpose of financing the educational activities of the various centres, we recommend that the Wholesale Societies allot a sum equal to 5s. per employee per year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Competitors of the co-operative movement are quite alive to the necessity of providing educational facilities for their employees. Several of them have well-organised educational departments; and others provide scholarships on a generous scale. In the opinion of this committee, co-operative organisations

working for the realisation of the co-operative ideal have the duty of caring for their employees' education still more strongly imposed upon them; and the movement ought at least to do what the best employers outside the movement are doing; in our opinion, the movement should do even more if it is to justify its claims as a movement for social reform.

We recommend that the Wholesale Societies hold a conference with the Educational Executive of the Co-operative Union with a view to bringing into operation the recommendations contained in this part of our report. The subjects for discussion should include the bases upon which the suggested committees might be formed, and the type and schemes of work which might be undertaken.

(d) THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

GENERAL.

Whilst many of the productive societies have an educational fund and undertake educational work that merits recognition, some of it giving evidence of considerable enterprise, there is still room for development, both in the field of technical instruction and in that of general co-operative education. Many of the suggestions we have made in regard to the federal societies are applicable also to the productive societies. Scholarships tenable at the Summer Schools, and other scholarships enabling their holders to visit other centres where their industries are established might be provided by these societies and also by their federation. The share of the employees in the control of their society imposes a special duty upon productive societies to provide them with adequate means of equipping themselves to support their responsibilities.

The success of the productive societies is linked up with the success of other societies in the movement; and they, no less than other societies, have an interest in the educational work of the movement. The nature of their constitution which, directly or indirectly, places in the hands of the workers a considerable share of the management of their societies, makes it necessary that the employees should be well educated in the technique of their trade and in co-operative principles; but they need, besides, a wide outlook upon industrial and social questions, otherwise they cannot adequately fulfil their function as business organisers and directors. This need for education is the greater, because, in co-partnership or producers' societies, the form of discipline which exists in privately-owned establishments has to be replaced by a spirit of comradeship and goodwill among the employees and an intense loyalty to the appointed managers and to the society. All these needs emphasise the importance of education as a means of securing industrial and commercial efficiency and that degree of co-operative loyalty without which real success will be impossible.

CONSTITUTION.

Many of the productive societies have already recognised these needs and have appointed educational committees, and we now recommend that *all* pro

ductive or co-partnership societies should appoint such committees. Unless there are special reasons for modification, we recommend that these educational committees consist of seven persons, and represent the committee of management, the managerial and clerical staff, and the various sections of other employees, the number from each of these groups depending upon the nature of the constitution of the management committee. In some societies, the management committee is already largely representative of worker-members, but in other societies there are few representatives of the workers on the management committees.

NATURE OF WORK.

Included in the work of these educational committees would be the encouraging of employees to take advantage of the facilities provided by local authorities for technical education. The formation by the committee itself of supplementary technical classes and classes in co-operation and other social subjects should also be a feature of the work undertaken, whilst public or semi-public lectures on co-operative and general subjects should be another feature. Such committees should also stimulate interest in the correspondence classes and general educational work of the Co-operative Union; and the societies might advantageously grant Co-operative Summer School Scholarships to their employees, thus linking up the workers at these works with the workers and members of the other sections of the movement. Where a distributive society exists in the vicinity of a productive society much good would result from co-operation between the educational committees of the two organisations. For the purpose of co-ordinating and developing certain branches of their work, productive societies are recommended to keep in touch with the Co-operative Productive Federation, which might form a special education committee or delegate the charge of educational matters to some existing sub-committee.

The educational committee of the various societies should, we recommend, be linked up with the educational association of the section in which they exist.

FUNDS.

For the purposes of financing the educational activities we recommend that the societies allot a sum equal to 5s. per employee per year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We repeat here the remarks made in regard to the educational activities of the Federal Societies, viz., "Competitors of the co-operative movement are quite alive to the necessity of providing educational facilities for their employees. Several of them have well-organised educational departments, and others provide scholarships on a generous scale. In the opinion of this committee, co-operative organisations working for the realisation of the co-operative ideal have the duty of caring for their employees' education still

more strongly imposed upon them, and the movement ought at least to do what the best of employers outside the movement are doing; in our opinion the movement should do even more, if it is to justify its claims as a movement for social reform."

We recommend that the productive and co-partnership societies and the Co-operative Productive Federation hold a conference with the Educational Executive of the Co-operative Union, with a view to bringing into operation the recommendations contained in this part of our report. The subjects for discussion should include the bases upon which these committees might be formed, and the type and schemes of work which might be undertaken.

(e) THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

In our last (the first) interim report we reviewed the objects and early history of the Women's Co-operative Guilds of England (with Wales), Scotland, and Ireland, as well as the nature of the work they have undertaken and are at present doing. They have already done much good work, and we are convinced there are great possibilities for good work yet before them, particularly as media for reaching the rank-and-file women members of the movement. It is not within our purpose at the moment to do more than comment upon some of their educational work and make suggestions for future educational developments.

As organisations for providing opportunities for women co-operators to meet, they must necessarily play an important part in cultivating that personal friendship among members which must exist if co-operation is to be more than a trading organisation and be a commonwealth in which social ideals as well as economic advantages are sought. The cultivation of the co-operative spirit in co-operative relationships and in general social life must therefore be recognised as one of the most important functions of the guilds; and in the cultivation of this spirit social intercourse and informal educational work must play the most important part.

Whilst formal educational work of an intensive character in classes must be a feature of guild work, the less formal must always be the principal work, partly because of the nature of the membership and partly because the intensive class work is usually within the province of local co-operative educational committees. With these educational committees the branches of the guilds must work in co-operation if the best results of our educational efforts as a whole are to be successful; and we have already suggested in this report that representatives of the guilds be appointed on the education committees of retail distributive societies. We have made this recommendation because of our conviction that it is desirable for the guilds to be in touch with, and co-operate in, the general co-operative educational work of the society with which they are connected, and also because of the desirability of avoiding overlapping in educational work. We think this co-operation and harmonious working would be still more effectively promoted if, in addition, a representative of the Education Committee of societies sat on the committee of the guild branch.

In accordance with the principle enunciated, viz., that informal education among women is the special sphere of the guilds, we make the following suggestions :—

That in all retail distributive societies there should be at least one branch of a women's guild, and that the Central Councils of the guilds take steps to achieve this object.

That steps be taken to create a closer connection between the three national women's guilds and between the guilds and the Education Department of the Co-operative Union.

That guild branches become members of the educational association of their own section, and affiliate with the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association.

That education take a more prominent place in the work of guild branches.

That in arranging their programme, guild branches should consult and work in harmony with the education committee of their society and the general scheme of education of their Central Council and the Co-operative Union.

That in guild programmes—central and local—co-operative matters be recognised as the most important, citizenship matters as the next most important, and other matters as the least important.

That the Educational Programme of the Co-operative Union be consulted in mapping out the work of guild branches, and particularly that portion of the programme dealing with women's classes and other forms of education for women.

That in supplement of the ordinary programme of guild meetings, courses of lectures—say, six lectures delivered weekly—be arranged to secure continuity of consideration of important subjects.

That the present organisation of sectional and district conferences, as well as the national congresses, be continued.

That district and sectional two-day schools and other schools of short duration be continued, with the co-operation of local co-operative education committees and the Education Department of the Co-operative Union where this is feasible; and that the Central Councils of the guilds and the guild branches encourage members of the guilds to take full advantage of the Co-operative Summer Schools, giving financial assistance where possible in cases where the assistance is necessary.

That the guilds attempt to stimulate the reading of literature on co-operative and social subjects, and of general literature, by forming reading circles and discussion classes for their members.

That the guilds take steps to stimulate the circulation of co-operative literature.

That the guilds co-operate with the educational committee of their society in establishing and fostering junior classes and young people's circles.

(f) THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILD.

Differing from the organisations of women co-operators, the National Co-operative Men's Guild covers the whole of the United Kingdom, with branches in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Like the women's guilds, the special function of the men's guild is to reach the rank-and-file member and promote informal education. The work of the men's guild has not yet developed as much as that of the English Women's Guild; but it issues annually suggestions for branch work and outlines of notes of lectures suitable for branch meetings; and some branches of the guild have organised successful week-end schools. Like the women's guilds, the men's guild branches provide opportunities for that social intercourse which is so necessary if co-operators are to realise their identity of interests, their mutual dependence, and the power of their united efforts in establishing a co-operative commonwealth. We recommend—

That the Central Council of the guild continue their efforts to secure the establishment of at least one branch of the guild in connection with every society.

That guild branches and groups of guild branches be encouraged to organise week-end schools, preferably in conjunction with the education committee of their societies; and that encouragement be given to members to attend the summer schools, branches giving financial assistance where this is desirable.

That the issue of outlines of suggested lectures for branches be continued and that additional attempts be made to secure continuity in branch work.

That the Central Council urge branches to form study circles and discussion classes for the consideration of important co-operative and social subjects.

That all branches of the guild be urged to join the co-operative educational association of their section and the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association.

That district and sectional meetings or conferences be arranged from time to time.

That attempts be made to increase the circulation of co-operative literature among guild members, particularly such papers as the national co-operative weekly journals and the *Co-operative Educator*.

That in all their work the branches of men's guild work in close co-operation with the educational committee of their society, consulting them when preparing their annual programme and making important fixtures, to avoid clashing. We have already suggested that the men's guild branches appoint one representative on the educational committee of their society. This, we think, would help to avoid overlapping and secure the interest of the men's guild in the work of the educational committee. It would be a further factor in co-ordinating the work of the two organisations if the educational committee

appointed a representative to sit on the committee of each branch of the guild, and gave financial assistance where necessary.

That in mapping out the work of the guild each branch consult the Educational Programme of the Co-operative Union and adopt such part of the work thereof as falls within the sphere of the guild.

(g) ORGANISATIONS FOR JUNIOR CO-OPERATORS.

It has long been noticed that the co-operative movement does not retain an adequate proportion of the large number of boys and girls who pass through the junior classes. This is to be regretted, for we thereby lose what might be a valuable and prepared nucleus of students for adult classes. We recognise that the transition from school life to industrial life—with the longer hours and attendance at evening classes of an industrial or commercial character—makes calls upon the time and mental and physical resources of our boys and girls rendering it difficult and often undesirable for them to add to the number of their evening engagements. We recognise, nevertheless, that many of these young people are lost to us at a time of life when formative influences are very powerful, and as many opportunities as possible should be provided for these young people to play together in a co-operative atmosphere as well as to study together. The number of boys and girls who attend evening classes is often over-estimated, and a large number might be secured for co-operative classes without reducing the number who attend the evening classes of public authorities.

The suggestion we wish to convey is that co-operative societies—and particularly educational committees—should provide facilities to enable young co-operators to centre as many of their interests as possible in the co-operative society. These facilities might include the arrangement of young people's entertainments, the establishment of recreational clubs (including gymnasiums and sports clubs), the arrangement of picnics, and the initiation of any enterprise likely to facilitate the inculcation of the idea that co-operation is a mode of life as well as a mode of trading—a spirit in social relationships as well as a form of social organisation.

By maintaining in these ways the interest in co-operative organisations of young people during the period of adolescence, it will be possible to encourage the development of the co-operative spirit in social relationships, which must have a beneficial effect in their after-life and lead them to value more highly the advantages of mutual aid. It will also provide, at an earlier age than we now receive most of our adult students, a large number of potential and partly-prepared students for our adult classes. These students, by reason of their previous preparation, their lower age and more receptive and agile minds, will be better able to take advantage of our educational facilities; and they will secure an adequate training before undertaking the responsibilities of official life in the movement. This will be to their own advantage and that of the movement, for they will have a better understanding of the possibilities of the movement and be able to render more efficient service. It ought not to be impossible during the next few years

to secure at least half-a-million or more young co-operators allied with one or other of the special co-operative organisations formed in their interests. These organisations must necessarily take account of the difference in age, and we are of the opinion that the main lines of development have already been indicated by the establishment in some societies of young people's circles and junior guilds.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CIRCLES.

These circles should take into membership young people up to 15 or 16 years of age, being recruited from the junior classes and by appeals to parents to induce their children to join. Regular meetings should be arranged for both winter and summer, indoor meetings being reduced in the summer months and supplemented by picnics and outdoor recreations. It is desirable that the organising and supervision of the work among young people should be entrusted to some person who has sympathy with, and gifts for, work of this nature and as far as possible the young people should be taught to manage their own affairs and cultivate the art of self-government.

The indoor meetings of the circle should be partly devoted to instruction and partly to entertainment and recreation, the children being encouraged to provide the necessary items of the programme and develop any latent talent they may possess. It will usually be desirable for the meetings of the circles to open with the collective singing of a co-operative song. If suitably arranged, these meetings can be made so attractive as to secure the regular attendance of large numbers of children. In connection with the circle it will often be possible and, where possible, always desirable to form a choir. The choir should be recognised as the society's junior choir. Alternatively, some members of the circle, along with members of the junior guild, might form the junior choir of the society.

In the sessions during the meetings devoted to instruction, co-operative lessons from "Our Story" and other co-operative text-books with simple talks on phases of Industrial History and Social Life should be given, picture and lantern-slide illustrations being used where possible. In societies where children's classes are already held, the programme of the young people's circle will necessarily differ from that of a circle in a society without such classes.

These circles will provide opportunities for retaining the interest of members of junior classes during the season when the classes are not meeting, and in some cases the class meetings and circle meetings can advantageously be held on alternate weeks. To secure the continued interest of the young people, we recommend that at the age of 15 or 16 their membership be transferred to junior guilds.

The circles should be initiated, supervised, and helped by the local co-operative education committee. The Education Department of the Co-operative Union has prepared suggestions for work of this kind and will readily assist societies in initiating circles and advising them as to methods of organising, whilst "Our Circle" is a magazine prepared for the special needs

of the members of the circles and should be circulated by educational committees among the members of the circles and junior classes.

JUNIOR GUILDS.

These guilds we recommend should be formed for adolescents from the age of 15 or 16 to 20 or 21, when the members can be transferred to the women's and men's guilds.

The nature of the work of these guilds will naturally differ in form from that of the Young People's Circles, but in object and principle it should be the same, viz., to spread a knowledge of the principles of co-operation, to encourage the practice of co-operation, and to foster interest in co-operative institutions.

Education committees should take steps to establish such guilds and exercise a friendly supervision, but allow the guilds to develop ability in self-government by permitting them as much as possible to manage their own affairs through their own elected officials and committees. A part of the work of the guilds will be the promotion of the study of the theory and practice of Co-operation, and this may be undertaken at the weekly or other meetings of the guilds or by joining classes arranged by the education committee. Much of the work of the guilds will consist of less formal educational work—reading circles, the reading and discussion of papers on selected topics, visits to co-operative institutions, the performance of co-operative plays, the organising of choirs and singing classes, and the arrangement of concerts for the choirs—all of which should be encouraged.

On the social side, the junior guilds should aim at centring the interests of their members on this side of their life in a co-operative atmosphere. Gymnasia, swimming clubs, football clubs, hockey clubs, cricket clubs, tennis clubs, chess and draughts clubs, &c., should all be looked upon as legitimate activities of the junior guilds likely to attach young people to the movement and provide opportunities for training young people on co-operative lines for citizen life.

GENERAL.

The future success of the movement in its highest sense depends upon the attitude of the co-operators of to-day towards the co-operators of to-morrow. Everywhere, almost, young people are being taught to "educate," "educate," "educate" in order to fit themselves better for the competitive struggle and to outvie their rivals. It is our duty to give a different point of view, to show that education is essential to each one, young and old, in order to fit us for social service, and that educational work should aim at making us more efficient to co-operate rather than to compete, that service should be the object of education rather than reward, that education for service instead of for profit is as much a social need as production for use instead of for profit.

We, therefore, attach great importance to the education of young co-operators, who must be given the co-operative view of the possibilities of social life, taught to co-operate, and provided with opportunities of practising

co-operation. Formal education in classes must be kept in view, but informal education and social intercourse must have their place. For these reasons we suggest the formation of young people's circles and junior guilds, and urge societies to establish them. To the Education Department of the Co-operative Union we suggest that, after the war, extended work among young people be undertaken. Among this work, we suggest that occasional conferences, demonstrations, and visits to co-operative institutions should have a place, whilst organised holidays for groups of young co-operators and special summer schools for young co-operators between the ages of 16 and 21 should also have a place.

(h) THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The committee have been glad to learn in the course of their enquiries that many co-operative societies are connected with the Workers' Educational Association and are contributing to the funds of that body. The possibilities of good work in co-operation with this organisation are very great, and we strongly recommend societies and other co-operative organisations to take an active part, locally and nationally, in helping forward the work of the association.

(i) RUSKIN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

The committee have already stated their approval of the work of this college, and heartily commend its claims to the generous consideration of the movement. We would urge societies not only to subscribe to its funds, but to assist also in providing scholarships or helping individual students to attend.

(j) WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

This college, which was established by the Christian Socialists as part of their plan to raise the status of the worker and fit him for increased industrial, co-operative and civic responsibilities, has had a long, successful, and honourable career, and many co-operators are still connected with it. The Co-operative Union for the last few years has subscribed to its funds and appointed a representative to its governing council. Though resident students are not taken, and the bulk of the work is evening work, many features of college life are retained and highly valued by the students. We commend the college and its work, and urge societies and individual co-operators in the London area to take advantage of the facilities it offers and give the college all the support they can. The college authorities, we understand, would be delighted if co-operators made more use of the college, and made it a centre of co-operative life and instruction in the London area.

CONFERENCES OF TEACHERS.

The number of teachers in the movement is constantly increasing, and the committee believe that conferences or week-end schools for teachers should be frequently arranged in order to enable them to discuss their work and its problems. The advantage gained by rendering the teaching work of the

movement more efficient would, the committee feel sure, fully repay any expenditure incurred by societies in helping their teachers to attend such conferences. These conferences or schools could be held in a number of districts in order to supplement the national conference held at Easter. A centre should be selected within easy reach of teachers, so that heavy travelling expenses would be avoided. Such conferences might well be convened by groups of societies and by the educational associations.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME.

The forthcoming Educational Programme of the Central Education Committee will show a considerable addition to the subjects in which the Union provides instruction, and outlines important developments. To this programme reference should be made for fuller information on these points. We are of the opinion that the limits of development are far from being reached. The programme, both as to contents and manner of presentation, should be frequently revised; the subjects should be added to; and the presentation varied. An article of educational interest might very well form a feature of the programme. This article should be one calculated to help the extension of co-operative education by outlining developments and suggesting methods of improving the organisation of our educational work, as well as be one that would be stimulating and helpful to those engaged in our educational activities. The annual report of the Central Education Committee should also be included.

Besides class work of the usual kind, we emphasise the importance of local societies providing for the physical education of young co-operators where facilities publicly provided are not available. Junior and senior choral societies should also be encouraged.

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION'S ADVISORY SERVICES.

In the committee's opinion, societies have not hitherto availed themselves as freely as they might of the services of the Central Educational authority for advice in regard to ways in which they might stimulate and organise local educational activity; and we would bring to their notice the great advantages which would accrue, both to themselves and the movement, if they utilised the services of the central officials more freely.

As a step in this direction, and as a means of securing closer and more efficient working, we recommend that the Education Executive, or representatives therefrom, should meet small groups of educational committees in order to discuss educational problems and developments in the districts where these committees are operating. The recent appointment of an "Adviser of Studies," with the addition to the staff of a lady assistant, and the prospective early appointment of travelling teachers, taken in conjunction with the organisation of a statistical department, should increase considerably the utility to societies of the Co-operative Union, enabling the Union to give, and societies to enjoy, advisory facilities more freely.

We understand that the Central Education Committee, in visualising the

future work of the educational department of the Union, are alive to the necessity of increasing the advisory and teaching staff of the department by appointing travelling teachers and others principally employed at Holyoake House, but available for summer schools, week-end schools, conferences, lectures, &c., in various parts of the country. With such a development of the work of the department this committee is in hearty agreement and strongly recommends such developments.

In conducting their enquiries the committee have met great difficulty, owing to the great variety in the manner of compiling the accounts of educational committees. We believe it advisable to have a uniform system of accounts, so that more reliable judgments of the nature and progress of local educational work can be formed. In the event of this becoming the opinion of Congress we suggest that the Education Department of the Union should submit to educational committees a form of accounts that would make this possible.

B.—CO-OPERATIVE LITERATURE.

INTRODUCTORY.

In all great movements which have an ethical as well as an economic basis, literature plays a most important part. Language, spoken or written, gives expression to the root idea from which spring future developments. In the beginning, it is burning and eloquent. If a man's belief in his discovery does not find origin in his own soul it fails to reach the souls of his contemporaries. Much of the early literature of our movement has been lost; but the little that remains supports this opinion. Co-operation was born on a wave of enthusiasm; and the old journals and pamphlets bear testimony to this and have an inspirational value to-day. Their function was to spread the new concept of a common basis in life and to convince the industrial world of its rightness. The writers and speakers of those days gave from their own hearts a message that went straight to the hearts of the community.

A little later, when the number of converts had grown, the function of their literature developed. To the eloquence of initiatory propaganda, the co-operative pioneers added such argument as would bind their adherents together in deeper loyalty and enlist their assistance in disseminating the principles for which their new movement stood. Now, too, in addition to their own efforts they borrowed what of value they could obtain from other sources, counting no source forbidden; and in their journals quotations, reviews, and contributed articles are to be found. These pioneers also established libraries and advised in the selection of books; and they organised reading-rooms, reading-circles, and study classes. They recognised the necessity of supplementing the appeal of their own literary efforts, by providing these additional facilities for reading and study.

Later still, the development of the movement created wider needs, and a greater variety of literature became necessary. As a consequence we have with us to-day the variety of literature that too often is said to be sufficient and too frequently considered to be satisfactory. We have the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator* dealing principally with reports of, and comments upon, current events in the industrial co-operative movement; whilst the *Irish Homestead* in Ireland and *Co-operation in Agriculture* in Great Britain provide for the agricultural movement in their respective parts of the United Kingdom. Then the *Millgate Monthly*, less co-operative in character, seeks to interest and educate co-operators in more general matters. In addition, there are *Our Circle*, specially prepared for young people, *The Wheatshaf*, *The Co-operative Employe*, *The Producer*, *The Co-operative Educator*, and so on—a number of publications, true, but not working to a common plan as far as can be judged.

Further, these journals have come into existence in the movement somewhat erratically at the instance of different organisations, and without any survey of the needs of the movement as a whole, so that there is some overlapping which, however, is not very serious, principally because the movement has so far been inadequately supplied with journal literature.

In our opinion the various types of journals required in the movement, may be classified as follows:—

- (1) Journals of the newspaper type devoted to recording and discussing current events;
- (2) Journals of the magazine type containing articles rather than news;
- (3) Journals whose primary objects are advertising and propaganda; and
- (4) Journals associated with particular organisations and serving as a means of communication between the members of these organisations.

Journals of the first type should be national in character and usually published at least weekly. They might with advantage consist of various sections: one section dealing with matters affecting the movement as a whole, another section giving the news of co-operative activities in one part of the United Kingdom, and other sections, on similar lines, dealing with other parts of the United Kingdom. Though this might necessitate a paper or papers a little larger than are now provided, it should not be a serious obstacle, for if the attractiveness of the paper were increased, the larger circulation obtained should help to reduce the cost of production. Such a paper should appeal to the average or general reader in the movement rather than to the specialists who will need to be provided for by additional publications. On this matter we make a suggestion on these lines in a later part of our report.

We find that some societies are closely associated with a weekly working-

class paper circulating in their area; and we commend their example to other societies. One society in the movement has recently published a weekly paper dealing with the affairs of the society. We have made some enquiries and given some consideration to the question of establishing a co-operative daily paper; but we are of the opinion that the time is not yet ripe for this step, though its importance should never be lost from sight.

Journals of the second type have been insufficiently provided in the movement so far. The movement has failed to cultivate a sufficient body of thoughtful readers of magazine literature, and this is a defect urgently needing attention.

Journals of the advertising and propaganda types are fairly numerous in the movement. They are exemplified by *The Wheatsheaf* and local records. Some of them reach a high level of excellence, but many fall below a satisfactory standard and urgently need improvement.

Journals of the fourth type are increasing in number and are likely to increase still more. There is certainly room for more such publications.

EXISTING CO-OPERATIVE JOURNALS.

It will be convenient if we now review some of the co-operative journal literature now issued and accompany this review with criticisms and suggestions.

THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS."

This paper was established in 1871 and its circulation in recent years has been as follows:—

CIRCULATION OF THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS" IN VARIOUS YEARS.

Year.	No. of Societies in Movement.	Societies taking the <i>News</i>		Average Weekly Circulation of <i>News</i> .	No. of Members of Retail Distributive Societies.	No. of Copies of <i>News</i> Circulated per 1,000 Members.
		Number.	Percentage of total No. of Societies.			
1900.....	1,634	804	49%	52,000	1,613,000	32
1905....	1,614	917	57%	71,000	2,153,000	33
1910.....	1,557	950	61%	78,000	2,469,000	32
*1915.....	1,497	950	63%	91,000	3,265,000	28

* Circulation affected by restrictions imposed by war conditions.

CIRCULATION OF THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS" IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AT END OF 1916.

Section.	No. of Societies in Secti n.	No. of Societies in Section Holding Shares.	No of Shares held by these Societies.	No. of Representatives.	No. of Copies of News taken weekly (1916).	Membership of Retail Societies in Section (1916).	Copies of News sold per 1,000 members.
Irish	40	1	10	1	2,654	24,126	110
Midland	213	32	508	42	14,998	435,144	34
North	141	59	1,477	100	9,519	374,535	26
North-Western	458	165	8,705	503	36,267	1,269,259	29
Scottish	276	44	504	51	8,450	478,420	18
Southern	198	39	274	40	11,857	440,511	27
West and S.-Western ...	171	13	220	17	6,490	242,818	27
Total for U.K.	1497	353	11,698	754	90,235	3,264,813	28

The *Co-operative News* circulates throughout the United Kingdom, but its circulation in some parts is not very great, as shown in the table given above. The circulation is, we consider, far short of what it should be in a movement like ours with approximately 3½ million members. Whilst the *News* aims at recording current events, it also provides a medium for the printing of articles on co-operative topics which are agitating the minds of co-operators as well as articles intended to create opinion favourable to co-operative progress. A special edition containing a few pages dealing with district matters is prepared for Ireland; and there are also special Scottish and Southern (including Midland) editions, the normal or chief edition being that which circulates principally in the Northern and North-Western Sections.

Efforts have been made and are still being made to improve the *News*, but we feel that the time has come when an even more strenuous effort should be made to improve it and increase its circulation. This we recognise is largely a question of finance, which is closely related to the question of circulation; but the circulation, we are convinced, could be much increased if by increased outlay or in other ways the paper could be improved.

We are of the opinion that lack of organisation and carelessness in delivery in retail societies, combined with lack of interest in the success of the *News* on the part of the committees and others responsible for the sale and distribution of co-operative literature, are largely responsible for the failure to secure the circulation which a co-operative weekly paper ought to enjoy. Many persons who would be regular readers are unable to get

the paper regularly through laxity in local delivery, and their interest wanes on this account. We therefore recommend better organisation of delivery, and urge that postal delivery be more extensively employed, either through direct subscription to the Newspaper Society or through local societies. Increased circulation would also be obtained if societies adopted the suggestion made in another part of our report and organised special book-selling and literature shops or departments. In connection with these departments, or even with conditions now prevailing, societies might do much to increase the sale of the *News* by appointing, as some societies do, newsboys to deliver the *News* (and other literature) and secure orders for it. A special national "push-the-sales" campaign might also be organised from time to time; and we strongly recommend the Newspaper Society to organise such a campaign. We also consider it would be an advantage if the organisations now issuing co-operative literature were to co-operate in the appointment of a circulation manager, who would be expected to work for a large circulation of all co-operative literature.

THE "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR."

[A monthly paper with this name was established in 1863. It ceased to exist when the *Co-operative News* was established in 1871.]

The present *Scottish Co-operator* was established in 1893 and registered in 1895. At first it was issued monthly, then fortnightly, and is now issued weekly. Its circulation in recent years has been as follows:—

CIRCULATION OF THE "SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR" IN VARIOUS RECENT YEARS.

Year.	No. of Societies in Scotland.	Societies taking the <i>Co-operator</i> .		Average Weekly Circulation.	No. of Members of Retail Distributive Societies in Scotland.	No. of Copies of <i>Co-operator</i> Circulated per 1,000 Members.
		Number.	Percentage of total No. of Societies.			
1900.....	319	....	....	23,000*	312,391	74
1905.....	302	160	53	25,000	372,445	67
1910.....	291	186	64	26,800	409,000	66
†1915.....	276	204	74	28,650	492,000	58

* Issued fortnightly at this time.

† Circulation affected by restrictions imposed by war conditions.

The suggestions we have made above in regard to the circulation of the *Co-operative News* are applicable also to the *Scottish Co-operator*. Whilst the *Scottish Co-operator* does not issue separate editions, similar to those issued by the *Co-operative News*, it does issue monthly for one society in Scotland a supplement containing local news

OVERLAPPING OF THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS" AND
"SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR."

The *Scottish Co-operator* circulates side by side with the *Co-operative News* in Scotland, and, like the *Co-operative News*, is much appreciated as a medium for the circulation of news and the stimulating of co-operative opinion. The paper aims at meeting the special needs of Scotland, which is also attempted by the *Co-operative News* with a special edition for Scotland, and we think that there is some unnecessary overlapping between the *Scottish Co-operator* and the *Co-operative News*.

We recognise the claims which Scotland, like other sections of the movement, has for a paper which shall adequately meet its special needs; but these needs might still be met by having one weekly co-operative paper. We suggest that there might be one co-operative paper for the whole of the United Kingdom arranged as to matter on the following lines:—One section containing matters of interest to the whole of the movement, another section with reports of meetings and other items of interest to Scottish readers, another section on similar lines for readers in Ireland, another section for readers in the Northern Section, and so on, for the various sections. At the present time, readers in Scotland complain of inadequate knowledge of co-operative matters in England, and readers in England feel themselves uninformed of what is taking place in Scotland and Ireland. A single paper giving the news of all the sections would overcome this difficulty; and whilst the size of the paper would be increased by adopting this suggestion, we believe the educational and propaganda value of the paper would be increased thereby, the convenience of co-operators in all parts of the United Kingdom would be met, and the circulation sufficiently increased to meet the extra cost of production.

REVENUE AND EDITORIAL CONTROL.

A part of the revenue of the *Co-operative News* and of the *Scottish Co-operator*, as in the case of other papers, is derived from advertisements. In our opinion, the development in the movement of papers of a propagandist nature should not be looked at merely from the profit-making point of view, nor be entirely dependent upon advertisement revenue, but, if necessary, should be subsidised by the movement as a whole.

In our opinion, papers like the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator*, whether separate or amalgamated, should be independent as to editorial control of all official organisations in order to retain that freedom of criticism of current events which is so essential to progress.

THE "IRISH HOMESTEAD."

The *Irish Homestead* is the unofficial organ of the Irish Agricultural Co-operative Movement, but circulates also in other parts of the United Kingdom, where it is much appreciated because of its high literary value. Its circulation is relatively small, but it seems unlikely that this paper could be advantageously amalgamated with any existing journal; and in our opinion

the *Homestead* is worthy of a much wider circulation than it now enjoys. Circulation difficulties resulting from the small population of Ireland, and the still smaller number who take an interest in co-operation and its literature are very great; and we can only recommend that the same patient efforts as have been made in the past should be continued in the future with a view to increasing its circulation. We think it would be an advantage if the size of the paper could be increased, and we think the paper might also contain more news about the industrial co-operative movement in Ireland. If these, and other new features were adopted, an increased circulation might be obtained; but we are strongly of the opinion that, if necessary, a paper of the type of the *Irish Homestead* should be valued for its propaganda services, and not be dependent upon large circulation or advertisement revenue for its income.

"MILLGATE MONTHLY."

This magazine is published by the Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited. It was established in 1906 and is issued monthly and has an average circulation of 13,000 copies per month, 585 societies taking copies. Its articles are not specifically co-operative, and it is a more general magazine than any other issued in the co-operative movement. It is much appreciated by its readers and gives very good value for the price charged. We recognise that co-operators should aspire to produce magazines of a general character as well as of a co-operative character; but if we intend to enter this branch of publishing we must be better organised for placing such publications on the open market. At the present time, the *Millgate Monthly* is a general magazine appealing to a limited circle—the co-operative movement. We therefore think the *Millgate Monthly* should either become more co-operative in character or retain its present character and seek a wider circulation in the open market. We are of the opinion that the latter method is the better, and therefore recommend that steps be taken to increase its circulation among the general public through the usual channels. We shall recommend, later in our report, the establishment of a new co-operative magazine, entitled the *Co-operative Review*, as a magazine of a co-operative character to meet the special needs of the movement for a co-operative magazine.

"OUR CIRCLE"

This magazine for children, published by the Co-operative Newspaper Society Limited, was established in 1907, and is issued monthly with an average circulation of 24,000 copies. Considering the number of children associated with the classes organised by the Co-operative Union and the membership of the movement, we are of the opinion that *Our Circle* ought to have a much bigger circulation than it now enjoys. We think this larger circulation might be better obtained if the magazine were controlled by the Education Department of the Co-operative Union, which is in closer touch with the educational committees of societies and with the junior classes and circles.

“BETTER BUSINESS.”

This magazine, which has taken the place of a monthly *Bulletin* (first published in 1914), is issued by the Co-operative Reference Library, Plunkett House, Dublin, quarterly, and has an average circulation of 400 copies. It is almost unique in co-operative literature in the United Kingdom, in that it is a quarterly magazine devoted to the dissemination of co-operative principles. It is one of the few co-operative journals that finds its way on to the counters of non-co-operative booksellers. The articles contained in the *Better Business* reach a very high level, and the magazine is worthy of wider circulation than it now enjoys.

“THE PRODUCER.”

This magazine was only established in November, 1916, by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and sufficient time has hardly elapsed to justify our making any lengthy criticism or substantial suggestion. Its object is to provide a general business magazine for the movement. It includes descriptions of co-operative activities in various business spheres, articles upon the administration of various departments and reports of new developments of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and of retail societies. It has already a large circulation (20,500 copies per month) among co-operative officials and committees; 724 societies take copies. To realise its purpose to the fullest extent we think the *Producer* should be issued weekly and include market reports and similar features that would increase its utility to the officials and committees engaged in the management of co-operative societies.

“WHEATSHEAF.”

The *Wheatsheaf*, which was first issued in 1896, appears to have the largest circulation of the various co-operative publications, the number per month issued during 1915 being about 600,000. In most cases, these copies included a few pages of local matter referring to the society under whose auspices the localised *Wheatsheaf* was issued. The primary object of the *Wheatsheaf* seems to be to serve as an advertising medium on behalf of the Co-operative Wholesale Society; but the magazine is also of distinct educational value, and with careful editing is kept at a high level of excellence on the literary side. No fewer than 529 societies took the *Wheatsheaf* in 1915, and 490 of them adapted it to local requirements by having localised pages to meet their special needs. These localised pages provide an excellent means of connection between the committees of societies and the members of the society. Undoubtedly the *Wheatsheaf* fills in a very satisfactory manner a place which would appear very vacant if such a publication did not exist. We think, however, that the *Wheatsheaf* might with advantage be enlarged and new features added from time to time; but, speaking generally, it is performing in a very satisfactory manner the work which it has to do.

SECRETARIES AND MANAGERS' "WHEATSHEAFS."

The National Co-operative Managers' Association and the Co-operative Secretaries' Association, each adopt the *Wheatsheaf* as an organ for their respective associations. Though this method of meeting their early needs was probably the best thing that could be found, we are of the opinion that the time is ripe for the issue of a Co-operative Officials' magazine, either under the direct auspices of the secretaries' and managers' associations, or by those bodies in conjunction with the Education Department of the Co-operative Union. The possibilities of success in this direction are being increased every day, owing to the growing strength of the officials' associations.

"LOCAL RECORDS" AND "LOCALISED 'WHEATSHEAF.'"

One or two of the *Local Records* issued by societies reach a very high level as literary productions, but in many cases the records might be very much improved. It does not seem to be sufficiently recognised that the form of presentation of the matter requires almost as much consideration as the selection of the matter to be included in these local records. It is to be recognised, however, that in many cases the editing of the records is undertaken by men and women who have had little or no opportunity of acquiring even an elementary knowledge of journalism. We are of the opinion that it would be a good thing if some method could be devised whereby local editors could be assisted, both in the selection of items for inclusion in their records, and in improving the methods of presenting matter which has to be included. Somewhat similar criticism and suggestions are applicable also to the local pages of the *Wheatsheaf*, which, however, have the advantage of passing through the hands of the sub-editors of the *Wheatsheaf* and being amended by them. Meetings of local editors of the *Wheatsheaf* have been recently held, and we think such meetings should be continued, and other suitable steps taken to improve local pages.

We regret to notice in many of the local records that undue prominence is given to advertisements of non-co-operative firms; and some of the records are even printed at non-co-operative establishments. We are of the opinion that a society by doing these things, is weakening its claim upon the loyalty of its own members. It appears to us inconsistent for a society in its literature pages to appeal for loyalty to the society whilst at the same time it is advertising non-co-operative goods and supporting non-co-operative printing establishments.

"CO-PARTNERSHIP."

This magazine was established in 1894 and is issued by the Labour Co-partnership Association monthly. It has an average circulation of about 7,000 copies. Its primary object is to secure an extended application of the principles of co-partnership in industry, and, particularly, co-partnership in the co-operative movement. It is a well-conducted and very readable magazine, and we do not feel able to offer any suggestions

except to recommend that more attempts be made to increase its circulation among the workers engaged in co-partnership establishments.

“CO-OPERATIVE UNION QUARTERLY REVIEW.”

This magazine is the official journal of the Co-operative Union, and is edited by the General Secretary, who prepares one or two articles upon current topics, such as recent legislation which is of importance to the movement. Sectional secretaries and secretaries of the various Union committees submit reports of the work of their committees and of matters of current interest in the section, and these reports are included in the *Review*. The circulation of the *Review* is on the average 5,000 per quarter, including 2,600 copies sent out to societies, two copies being sent free to each society member of the Union. The *Review* circulates principally among members of management committees and officials. It was first published in 1914.

The object for which the *Review* was established was to keep the various committees and sections of the Union in touch with the activities of other committees and sections; and the officials and committees of societies in touch with the Union and its work. This result, we consider, has been achieved up to a certain point. The *Review* has followed the lines originally laid down, but we believe that the time has come when the scope of the *Review* should be enlarged and more ambitious objects sought. We recommend that in addition to the formal reports which are now contained in the *Review*, articles on general co-operative matters, such as would be of interest to committees and officials, should be included. We think if these and other new features were added there might be a demand sufficient to justify publication monthly. The name of the magazine might in any case be changed, and we suggest that it be known in future as the “Co-operative Committees’ Journal” or some other suitable name to distinguish it from other magazines.

“CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATOR.”

The publication of this magazine was undertaken by the Central Education Committee of the Co-operative Union, at the beginning of 1917, in order to meet the needs of educational committees, teachers, the growing number of students and other persons interested in education in general, and co-operative education in particular. The need of an educational magazine as a means of fostering interest in the movement’s educational work, and linking educational workers more closely together, had long been felt. This need and the impending developments of the Educational Programme, together with the increasing number of summer schools and other educational fixtures, emphasised the need for a magazine for the purpose of giving reports of lectures and for creating the necessary support for these and other activities, if the educational influences set in motion by the Central Education Committee were to secure their maximum result. The magazine at the present time is issued quarterly, with a circulation of about 6,000 copies; but we understand that it is the intention of the Central Education

Committee to issue the magazine monthly as the circulation grows and as staff arrangements and paper supplies permit. It is much too early to express any opinion upon the magazine, except to say that it has met with a very favourable reception. It is recognised that the *Educator* appeals principally to the students and the more thoughtful section of the members of the movement, and that it has to create its own circle of readers in the movement. We welcome the publication of the *Educator*, and urge societies and individual co-operators to give it every support; and we recommend that, as soon as circumstances permit, the magazine be issued monthly:

“INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE BULLETIN.”

This journal was established in 1908, and is issued monthly by the International Co-operative Alliance, and is at present published in separate editions in English, French, and German.

In our opinion, it is a magazine which is worthy of a wider circulation than it now enjoys, and we should like to see more determined efforts made to increase the circulation of the magazine in the United Kingdom, where the average co-operative member takes little or no interest in the co-operative movement abroad. We suggest that the magazine be enlarged considerably, and that, in addition to utilising present sources of information, honorary or other correspondents be appointed in all the various countries where there is a co-operative movement, and that each issue contain sections devoted to news from various countries. It might not be possible to have a section referring to each country in every issue; but the sections might be so arranged that besides the general section in each issue there would be sections referring to two or three countries as well. In the following issue, other countries might be selected for the separate sections, and throughout the year a section referring to each country might appear at least three or four times. We think that more reviews of co-operative literature at home and abroad might be included, and that illustrations of co-operative institutions might more frequently appear. A gap in co-operative literature would be filled if a brief account of the history of co-operation in various countries were to be given in the *Bulletin* from month to month. We are conscious that our suggestions mean a considerable enlargement of the function and size of the *Bulletin*, and we think it might be well worth the while of the International Alliance to appoint a special editor for this magazine. He should be a good linguist, possess a good knowledge of co-operation, and able to collect news from all parts of the world. With the adoption of these suggestions we believe the *Bulletin* would appeal to a larger circle of readers and help considerably in the development of international co-operation and in the promotion of a better understanding between the co-operators of various countries.

“CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE”

This magazine is the journal of the Agricultural Organisation Society, and circulates in the agricultural co-operative movement in England and

Wales. The work of the agricultural movement in England is so far isolated from the work of the industrial and co-operative movement that we hesitate to pass any criticisms, or make any suggestions in regard to this journal, except to say that it would assist in promoting a better understanding between the agricultural and industrial movement if the affairs of the industrial movement received more notice in the columns of *Co operation in Agriculture*.

THE "CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES."

This magazine is the organ of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés. It is issued monthly, and has an average circulation of 13,000 copies. Its object is similar to that of the journals of other trade organisations, viz., to keep the members of the union in touch with one another and with the central office and its work. These purposes it appears to achieve very well. We would, however, suggest that its utility to the employees and the co-operative movement generally might perhaps be increased if more articles of an educational character, as distinct from articles of a propaganda or trade-union character, were included.

NEW MAGAZINES.

THE "CO-OPERATIVE REVIEW."

The various magazines already reviewed circulate almost entirely within the movement, and we are of the opinion that there is room for a co-operative magazine which would circulate in the open market side by side with the general magazine literature of the country and aid in the development of co-operative opinion in circles which, at the present time, are out of touch with the co-operative movement. On these grounds, we recommend the publication of a monthly or quarterly magazine which might be named the "Co-operative Review" or the "Co-operative and Labour Review," and which would gather information concerning the co-operative movement in the United Kingdom and, to a lesser extent, the movement abroad, give reviews of co-operative and allied literature and contain articles of a co-operative and allied character, having for their object the permeation of the outer world with co-operative ideas. Special efforts should be made to secure the circulation of this magazine through ordinary channels so that it would be sold side by side with the ordinary monthly or quarterly magazine literature. In our opinion, the Co-operative Newspaper Society might very well take up the publication of this special magazine, which, if conducted on right lines, ought to appeal at once to a wide circle of readers in co-operative and labour circles.

"MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN CO-OPERATORS."

The growing membership of the movement makes possible and renders necessary increased specialisation in co-operative literature. A large proportion of the membership of the movement consists of women. Many of them are readers of the monthly magazines for women, published by ordinary

commercial publishers and by special societies and organisations with women members. In the co-operative movement the special needs of women have been considered, and attempts have been made to meet them by including a "Women's Corner" in the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator*. The special needs of women and their share in the movement's activities have, however, grown during recent years; and it can hardly be expected that sufficient space in the co-operative weekly journals can be allocated to meet their larger and more varied needs, or make the co-operative appeal as varied and as effective as it might be and should be. These considerations lead us to suggest that the Co-operative Newspaper Society should issue a monthly magazine for women to supplement and not replace the "Women's Corner" in the co-operative weeklies. This magazine should include articles breathing the co-operative spirit and likely to appeal to working-class women, some account of contemporary activities in which women co-operators are likely to be interested, and such general features of other women's magazines as are likely to make the magazine one which women co-operators would prefer to any other magazine now on the market.

We are strongly of the opinion that there is a sufficiently large support available for such a magazine if established on right lines and enterprisingly arranged and edited.

GENERAL.

With the publication of so many journals in the movement we believe some consideration should be given to the question of publishing days. Most of the publications are published at the beginning of the month, and we consider it would be better if their publication were distributed throughout the month. In our opinion, more readers would thereby be secured for all our publications.

In our opinion, it would also be an advantage if the editors and managers of the various co-operative publications were to meet from time to time with a view to discussing ways of avoiding overlapping, securing co-ordination, improving circulation, and promoting the general success of all co-operative journal literature; and we recommend the Co-operative Union, through its publications department, to convene such a conference. We would also emphasise the importance of the various publishing organisations appointing, jointly, a circulation manager, as already suggested.

PAMPHLETS.

The circulation of pamphlets issued by the Union increases yearly; and during the year 1916 the number reached a record. Precise numbers are not available; but the following figures of the circulation during 1916 of a few selected pamphlets will give some idea of the extent of the demand for the Union's pamphlets.

"Co-operation What it has done, etc." (Propaganda Pamphlet),
200,000.

"The Economic Results of the War" (Congress Paper), 50,000.

"The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials, Paper No. 1" (Conference Paper), 100,000.

"Advice to Societies regarding steps to be taken" (Leaflet) } 250,000.

"Advice to Members regarding steps to be taken" (Leaflet) }

"Income Tax" (Pamphlets and Leaflets), 500,000.

A further indication of the growth of the circulation of pamphlets and books is provided by the Union's sales of publications, which have been as follows. Many pamphlets are distributed free; and conference papers are not charged for when distributed to conference delegates:—

1900	..	..	..	..	..	..	£890.
1905	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,650.
1910	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,600.
1911	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,580.*
1912	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,480.
1913	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,980.
1914	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,400.
1915	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,400.
1916	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,500.

* Special cheap edition of *Our Story* included in the figures for this year.

About four years ago, the Union's stock of pamphlets was examined many pamphlets were excised from the list, others were revised and a new price list under classified headings was issued. Since that date, the preparation and issue of pamphlets has been supervised by the Publications Committee, which consists of representatives of the United Board and the Central Education Committee. The committee meet quarterly, and consider pamphlets submitted to them by the various sectional boards, adopting as stock pamphlets, such of the pamphlets submitted as appear to be of permanent value. A quarterly list of new pamphlets, books, and other publications is issued; and it is intended to issue annually a catalogue and price-list of stock pamphlets and other publications on sale by the Union.

The publications of the Union have now become so numerous, and their sale so large as to justify, indeed necessitate, better organisation of this department of the Union's activities. This appears the more necessary when the large issue of uncharged pamphlets and possible developments of the Union's publications are also considered. We therefore welcome the proposal to establish a definite and well-organised publications department, which would keep records of the various pamphlets and books sold, distributed gratis and in stock. We believe that with a special department, with a head of department responsible for developing the sale and distribution of Union publications; the circulation of co-operative literature would be much increased. We attach great importance to the proper organisation of this department, as we believe that the market for good co-operative literature is far more extensive than is generally supposed; and being of the opinion that co-operative progress depends upon the widespread dissemination of

co-operative ideas, we are keenly anxious that co-operative literature should be more widely circulated. The suggestion we make in this report in regard to book-selling departments and shops, if adopted, will secure a greater sale and wider circulation of pamphlets as well as of other co-operative publications.

In our review of the pamphlets and conference papers issued in the movement, we have been impressed by the fact that the quality and permanent value of some of these pamphlets and papers hardly warrants their being printed; and we suggest that sectional boards, district associations, and other organisations should exercise greater supervision over the printing of conference papers. We recognise the great value of encouraging initiative and providing opportunities for the contribution and circulation of new ideas; but we are strongly of the opinion that conference work, as revealed by its literature, is too diffuse and not as helpful as it might be. The subjects of successive conference papers are often but little related to one another, or to questions before the movement; and we therefore warmly welcome the suggestions now being considered by the Central Board for the adoption of an annual national co-operative programme, upon which special papers are to be prepared for discussion at conferences, though still leaving one, or perhaps two, conferences each year, available for other matters. The educational executive of the Union might similarly prepare a programme of educational matters, and arrange for the preparation of papers thereon, for discussion at conferences of educational associations.

We have found a wonderful variety of size and shape in co-operative pamphlets and conferences papers. This variety has many disadvantages, particularly in stocking and packing, and prevents the binding up of pamphlets on allied matters. We therefore suggest that all conference papers and as many pamphlets as possible should be of the same size and shape of page as the *Congress Report*, and that different colours of backs be adopted for different series. Further, we recommend that, yearly, bound copies of the pamphlets of that year be put on sale.

BOOKS.

Twenty years ago the number of books published by the Union could almost be numbered on the fingers of one hand. Since that date, however, the educational work of the Union has developed; and a large number of classes has been formed in a considerable variety of subjects. The development of class-work has created the necessity for text books, with the result that to-day a fairly large number of books is issued by the Union; and the number of books and their circulation increase yearly. In addition, a number of books on co-operative subjects published by other publishers, are sold through the Union. The books published by the Union are:—

“Our Story” (Text Book for Junior Classes).

“Lives of Great Men and Women” (Text Book for Intermediate Classes).

“Industrial Co-operation” (Text Book for Adult Classes).

- “ Working-men Co-operators ” (Supplementary Text Book).
- “ Foundations ” (Reprint of several chapters in the Manual for Co-operators). (Supplementary Text Book).
- “ Co-operation for All ” (a popular description of the Co-operative Movement).
- “ The Co-operative Movement and the place of the Member in it ” (a propaganda Booklet for new Members).
- “ The Co-operative Apprentices’ Text Book ” (Text Book for Junior Employees).
- “ The Co-operative Manager’s Text Book ” (a Text Book for salesmen and managers).
- “ Co-operative Bookkeeping ” (a Text Book for Bookkeeping Students).
- “ The Co-operative Secretary ” (a Text Book for Co-operative Secretaries and Classes).
- “ Co-operative Auditing ” (a Text Book for Co-operative Auditors and Students).
- “ Handbook to the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts ” (a Handbook for Co-operative Committees and Officials).
- “ Co-operative Directory ” (published every fourth or fifth year. A Directory of Industrial Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom).
- “ Co-operative Congress Report ” (Published annually. A report of the co-operative activities during the preceding year and of the Co-operative Congress held during the year).

In addition to the books published by the Co-operative Union, there are issued annually—

- “ The Co-operative Wholesale Societies’ Annual ” (a book recording the statistics of the two Wholesale Societies, and including special articles. It is published by the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies); and the
- “ Co-operators’ Year Book ” (a book containing a record of the progress of the Co-partnership Societies, and containing also special articles. It is published by the Co-operative Productive Federation).

We understand that the Central Education Committee, in conjunction with the Publications Committee, intend to publish a series of Co-operative Primers of about 120 pages, and another series of rather larger books, to be known as the “ Union ” Series, and of which the book, “ Foundations,” is the first book issued in the series. The committee have at present in course of preparation, or have decided upon the preparation of the following books :—

“ Handbook for Committees.”

Three Text Books for Salesmen :

One on “ Foodstuffs ” ;

One on “ Textiles ” ;

One on “ Furnishing, Hardware, and Allied Trades.”

“ Economics of Co-operation ” (Text Book).

- "International Co-operation" (two vols.).
- "Intermediate Text Book on Co-operation" (Text Book for Intermediate Classes).
- "Short History of Co-operation" (Union Series).
- "Co-operative Production" (Primer Series).
- "Co-operative Finance" (Primer Series).
- "Sketch of the Co-operative Movement To-day" (Primer Series).

We recommend action by the Educational Executive in conjunction with the Publications Committee, in : (1) The issue of pamphlets and booklets which will assist societies in their local development, and of books for co-operators and general readers, that will place before the public the co-operative view upon the great subjects which agitate the minds of the people ; and (2) the sale by the best means available of books for which there may exist a general demand in the sales department of the Union. Some of the books at present under consideration are, we understand, the following, and we heartily commend the work of the Publications Committee :—

- (a) A book on "Statistical Methods suitable for employment by Co-operative Societies."
- (b) "Co-operative Advertising."
- (c) Primer History of the Rochdale Pioneers.
 - Primer of International Co-operation.
 - Primer of Co-operation in relation to Social Questions.
 - Primer of Co-operative Problems.
 - Primer of Co-operative Education.
 - Primer of Co-operative Statistics.
 - Primer of Co-operation in relation to Agriculture.
 - Primer of Co-operative Distribution
 - Primer of Co-operative Use of Profits.
 - Primer of Co-operative Economics.
 - Primer of Economics of Co-operation.
 - Primer of Co-operation in relation to Labour.

The Central Education Committee are issuing at an early date an extended Educational Programme, which will include many new subjects for which new text books will be required. The following books, among others, will be required, in addition to some already noted ; and we recommend their preparation and publication :—

- "Co-operation in relation to Agriculture."
- "Co-operative Control of Raw Materials."
- "Co-operation in its relation to Social Problems."
- "Co-operative Statistics."

A Text Book for Women's Classes.

A Text Book or Text Books on Industrial History specially prepared for Co-operative Students.

A Text Book on special periods of Industrial History specially prepared for Co-operative Students, *e.g.* :—

1. "The Industrial Revolution."

2. "The Industrial and Economic History of the Nineteenth Century."

A Text Book or Text Books on Economics and others on special branches of economic study, specially prepared for Co-operative Students, *e.g.* :—

1. "Social Economics."
2. "Economic and Social Problems."
3. "Wages."

A Text Book on the Welfare of the Group.

A Text Book on Co-operative Education and its Organisation.

A Text Book or Handbook on Co-operative Propaganda and Methods of Organising.

A Text Book on the Art of Teaching.

A Text Book on Commercial and Co-operative Law.

A Text Book on the Organisation of Industry and Commerce.

A Text Book on the Economics of Business Organisation.

A Text Book on Modern Business Methods and Office Organisation.

A Text Book on Income Tax and the Co-operative Movement.

In addition, there is the Canvasser's Manual, as recommended in the Propaganda Section of our Report.

For the full success of our class work, it is essential that the foregoing books be prepared. In most cases there are no books on the subjects indicated; and where there are books they do not give the co-operative point of view which we believe it is our duty to present to our students, to our members generally, and to the outside public.

In addition to the foregoing, we recommend that the existing song books be revised and supplemented, and that the Publications Committee proceed with their efforts to secure a satisfactory supply of suitable choral music for the use of junior and of senior co-operative choirs.

At the present time, the Union issues three co-operative plays :—"The Dawn," "The Dragon," and "The Wedding Gift of Princess Joy." Having regard to the importance of interesting our young people in the movement and its various activities, we recommend that additional plays of a suitable character be prepared. We also recommend the compilation of a book of recitations suitable for gatherings of junior co-operators.

We believe, too, that there is room for one or more books of the type of the novel which would point a co-operative moral; and we commend this suggestion to the consideration of the Publications Committee.

The preparation and publication of the various publications recommended in this report, together with the necessary revision of text books, &c., which should always be kept up-to-date, emphasises the importance of organising and adequately staffing the special Literature and Publications Department, the establishment of which we have already recommended, and which we believe to be essential to the proper development of this branch of the Union's activities and the spread of co-operative ideas.

THE SALE OF CO-OPERATIVE LITERATURE.

In our review of the literature of the movement we have been impressed with the inadequacy of our methods of securing the circulation of co-operative literature; and we strongly recommend that societies of adequate size should have a special bookselling and literature department where co-operative literature would always be on sale. These departments might also undertake the sale of the ordinary daily newspapers and the weekly, monthly, and other magazines. In some cases the sale of newspapers could be undertaken along with the sale of tobacco, &c., on the usual lines in special shops. In smaller societies, where the opening of a special book-selling and literature department is not feasible, we recommend that in the central or branch establishments a person be specially appointed to attend on two or more evenings or days per week for the purpose of selling co-operative literature. In this connection, we may express the opinion that in most societies such a department would be a good paying department, but we are anxious that the movement should look upon its literature from the point of view of propaganda rather than profit-making. The returns from propaganda are certain though not always easily recognised; and a society which pushes the sale of co-operative literature is adopting one of the soundest methods of promoting its general success.

We also recommend for careful consideration the desirability of forming in the movement a co-operative bookselling society, which would have shops in the main streets of our larger cities and towns; and besides selling books of the usual kind would make a special display of co-operative books and other co-operative literature. At the present time, we suffer through inadequate publicity, and if we desire to reach the book-reading public and stimulate the growth of co-operative opinion, it is very necessary that we should take our literature to the book-reading public.

Where local societies are ready to open such a shop there would, of course, be no need for the book-selling society to compete with them; but until such time as retail distributive societies are ready to do this work we think a book-selling society specialising in this work, accumulating experience and utilising specialised skill, would fulfil a very useful purpose.

C.—PROPAGANDA.

The connection between education and propaganda is very close; and it is difficult to decide where one ends and the other begins. For this reason it is important that both in central organisations and in local societies there should be a close connection between those engaged in educational work and those engaged in propaganda work.

In our opinion, the objects of co-operative propaganda should be recognised as being—

- (a) To introduce co-operation in districts where no society now exists;

(b) To develop loyalty, increase membership, capital, and trade in the areas covered by existing societies;

(c) To develop co-operative productive, distributive, and general activity;

(d) To stimulate the application of co-operative principles in all forms of economic and general social activity.

For these purposes the following suggestions are made:—

SECTION 1.—REGARDING THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

(a) The establishment of a Propaganda Department, with a committee and head of department responsible for the initiation and maintenance of active propaganda throughout the United Kingdom. This committee, we recommend, should take over the work now undertaken by the existing Propaganda Committees and Exhibitions Committee. The Educational Executive of the Union should be represented on this committee, because of the close connection of the work of the two committees; and there should be such arrangements made as will avoid overlapping between committees and the duplication of equipment and resources, whilst securing the full use of all the resources of the Union. The close association, in some form or other, of the Wholesale Societies, the productive societies, and the guilds with the Union for propaganda purposes is desirable;

(b) The appointment of organisers and propaganda agents, allocated to various parts of the United Kingdom, to undertake or supervise propaganda work under the direction of the Propaganda Department of the Union, working in close co-operation with the appropriate Sectional Boards and District Associations, and keeping in touch with the guild committees and branches;

(c) The training of organisers, propagandists, speakers, and canvassers in suitable classes arranged by the Union's Education Department. The compilation in district order of a list of competent speakers available for propaganda work;

(d) The compilation of a Speakers' Handbook and a Canvassers' Manual, containing data likely to be required by organisers, speakers, and canvassers, with suitable suggestions regarding addresses for meetings;

(e) The arrangement of exhibitions on a more extensive scale than hitherto;

(f) The arrangement of tours for propaganda purposes and the provision of touring vans for use by travelling propagandists for open-air meetings;

(g) The arrangement of indoor as well as outdoor meetings in suitable districts;

(h) The preparation of suitable lantern slides and cinematograph films likely to be of use to propagandists;

(i) The preparation of suitable pamphlets and other literature to support and supplement the efforts of the propaganda agents. These pamphlets and other literature, such as the *Co-operative News*, *The Scottish Co-operator*, and *Wheatsheaf*, to be distributed or sold at propaganda meetings or by propagandists;

(j) The organisation from time to time of a national scheme of advertising, utilising magazines, daily papers, and hoardings; and the maintenance of continuous advertising in suitable forms;

(k) The preparation of a suitable collection of songs for use at propaganda meetings.

The interim report of the Survey Committee gives data indicating the strength of the movement in different parts of the United Kingdom; and the Propaganda Department, in consultation with the Sectional Boards and District Associations, should map out the United Kingdom into areas for propaganda purposes, distinguishing the areas in which—

(1) The Union itself should conduct propaganda;

(2) The local society should conduct propaganda;

(3) The local society, in conjunction with any other local society or societies, should jointly conduct the propaganda;

(4) The local society, in conjunction with the Sectional Boards, the District Associations, and the Propaganda Department of the Union should conduct the propaganda.

The suggestions contained in this Section (No. 1) refer to propaganda of types Nos. 1 and 4; Nos. 2 and 3 are dealt with in Section 2 of these suggestions.

In regard to advertising, the committee recognise three kinds of advertising in the co-operative movement—

(1) Advertising the principles of co-operation;

(2) Advertising a particular society and the advantages it offers;

(3) Advertising a particular commodity or class of goods.

Though there is some connection between the various purposes of co-operative advertising, the committee suggest that advertising of the first type is the kind of advertising which the Union, or the Union and societies jointly, should undertake. It is closely connected with education, and is an essential part of propaganda. Advertising of the second and third types is entirely the work of retail, federal, and co-partnership societies, though they, too, have an interest in advertising of the first type.

It is suggested that the Propaganda Department of the Co-operative Union should continuously use the national newspaper and magazine press for the purpose of advertising the principles of co-operation, and should join with local societies in using the local press for the same purpose. Hoarding advertisements should also be used by the Union on suitable occasions. One such occasion is provided in the Congress town, prior to and during the holding of Congress, and other occasions occur prior to and during the holding of the exhibitions already suggested.

For the work which requires to be undertaken by the Sectional Boards and District Associations in co-operation with local societies, we recommend these boards and associations to appoint a propaganda sub-committee to act along with local societies, and, where the work warrants it, the appointment of several sub-committees, each one allocated to a particular part of the section or district and working with the societies in that district. In all their propaganda work the Sectional Boards and District Associations should work in co-operation with the guilds, employees' associations, and all other auxiliary and subsidiary co-operative organisations for the purpose of securing the greatest amount of interest and assistance.

In view of the importance to co-operative societies of advertising, the committee recommend the establishment by the Union of classes on advertising, and the preparation of a Manual of Co-operative Advertising.

Propaganda being so important a part of the movement's activities it is strongly recommended that the Propaganda Committee of the Union should not only submit an annual report for inclusion in the Central Board's Report to Congress, but should, each year, outline its work for the following Congress Year; and this outline of proposals should be included in the annual national programme submitted to Congress for consideration.

SECTION 2.—REGARDING THE RETAIL SOCIETIES.

In approaching the question of propaganda from the point of view of the retail societies it must be recognised that each society requires special consideration, for the conditions differ in detail in nearly every case; and the success of a propaganda scheme nearly always depends upon initiative and close attention to details. The society in the rural district will require to conduct its propaganda in a manner different from that adopted by a society in a medium-sized manufacturing town; and a society in a large city must adopt still other methods. There is propaganda work which each society must do itself; there is other work which can be best done in conjunction with neighbouring societies; and there is still other work which can be best done in co-operation with the district association or sectional board. The Propaganda Department of the Union should be organised as an advisory department for societies, as well as for undertaking propaganda work itself.

The following general suggestions and recommendations are offered, with the further suggestion that societies should apply them in the manner most suitable to local conditions :—

For local propaganda work there should be an intimate working arrangement between the management committee, the educational committee, the guilds, and the employees; and we suggest the formation by retail societies of a propaganda and publicity committee consisting of representatives from these bodies. Where the education committee is itself constituted on these lines, propaganda work might be remitted to it. Quarterly joint meetings between the education committee and management committee to discuss propaganda would be helpful in such cases. It is an essential of successful

propaganda that it be enterprising and persistent. Propaganda is no mere formal or routine matter. The most successful propaganda is that in which ability is linked with enthusiasm; and care should be exercised in selecting the members of the propaganda committee. In large societies it will be possible and desirable to have a special propaganda and publicity secretary—a man of ideas, with enthusiasm and “push and go.” In such a society the society’s advertising could with advantage be arranged through the propaganda and publicity department and its permanent secretary. In smaller societies a permanent official for educational and propaganda work jointly should be appointed.

The propaganda work of a local society will consist in particular of (1) making the existence of the society widely known, (2) securing new members, (3) securing more trade from existing members, and (4) propagating co-operative principles and stimulating loyalty to other co-operative institutions. To secure these objects a society will employ meetings (outdoor and indoor), lectures, exhibitions, processions, canvassers, advertisements (hoardings and press), special window displays, and such other media as are advantageous and available.

There should be both indoor and outdoor meetings. If people do not come to the indoor meetings, outdoor meetings should be arranged in order to reach the people. At these meetings, the lantern and cinematograph should be freely employed, the resources of the Co-operative Union, the Wholesale Societies, and other co-operative institutions being drawn upon for this purpose. Competent speakers should be engaged, and, to supplement local speakers, the District Association and Sectional Board should be asked to assist; and they might with advantage be consulted in preparing any scheme of local propaganda. A little music will also add to the attractiveness of these meetings, and the junior or senior choir of the society might usefully assist. Songs on leaflets could be distributed to the audience with advantage, as it will be found that singing, particularly collective singing, makes the meetings “go.” In order to make a big effort it is not sufficient to advertise the meetings by press advertisements, posters, or handbills, though all these media should be employed. Posters should be displayed in the shops and on hoardings; handbills (which, like all other forms of advertisement, require to be drafted with care) should be distributed from door to door and in shops; and the employees should be asked to boom the meetings by mentioning them to the members when purchasing and by inserting notices in members’ parcels when orders are delivered. Invitation tickets should also be issued to members of trade-union branches and friendly societies, and to others likely to be interested; and these will bring along a number of persons who would not respond to a poster or handbill. The distribution and sale of co-operative literature should also form a part of the effort made. Reports of all these meetings should be sent to the local press, and steps taken to secure their insertion. Forms upon which persons can make application for membership should be available at these meetings, and literature for sale and

distribution should be provided at *all* meetings. All literature should be co-operatively printed. In issuing posters, handbills, &c., appealing for more members or greater loyalty it is inconsistent to have these appeals printed at non-co-operative establishments.

Arrangements should also be made for deputations to visit trade union branches and friendly societies for the purpose of bringing the advantages of the movement to the members of these organisations.

Exhibitions should be frequently organised by the society itself, as well as in conjunction with the Co-operative Union. At these exhibitions, a stall should be arranged for the distribution and sale of co-operative literature. Forms of application for membership should be provided, and a canvasser charged with the duty of securing new members. The society should be sure that it stocks or obtains on request any of the goods exhibited. It is injurious to our business reputation to advertise co-operative productions and then fail to have them in stock when a member wants them. At these exhibitions, cinematograph displays illustrating co-operative productive works, the society's own undertakings, galas, &c., should form a feature of the attractions offered, and the distribution of suitable samples should be another feature.

Co-operative shopping weeks, arranged periodically, say once a year, can also be arranged with advantage. During this week a series of meetings (on the lines previously suggested) all over the district where the society operates will help to work up interest; and a procession daily, or as often as possible, of co-operative vehicles will assist further in drawing attention to the local society and the movement. Special window displays of co-operative productions, a plentiful display of bunting on the society's premises, and a liberal use of press, hoarding, and handbill advertisements will assist further in securing the end desired.

A most important way of increasing co-operative membership and trade is by appointing paid or voluntary canvassers to wait upon members and non-members. The members' accounts will show which members are not supporting the society with all their trade, and the canvassers should be appointed to visit those members whose purchases have declined or lapsed, with a view to securing an increase and ascertaining causes for the falling off. These canvassers might also bring to the notice of members the resources of their society, and also the literature of the movement—the *Co-operative News*, the *Scottish Co-operator*, the *Co-operative Educator*, &c.—whilst every society ought to have its own "Record" or localised "Wheatsheaf," which should reach all its members. Each society should map out its area into wards or districts, finding out the population, membership, and sales in each ward or district, and directing the canvassers' attention to those districts or streets where the membership or sales are weak in relation to possibilities. The work of these canvassers differs from that of the travellers who visit members weekly for their orders. It should be chiefly directed with a view to reaching the members whose purchases are low, persons whose

membership has lapsed, and persons who have never been members. Such canvassers or agents would, we believe, prove a useful link between the members and the society, acting as intelligence officers, bringing back useful reports for the manager and committee.

In regard to advertising, the three purposes for which co-operative advertising may be undertaken, and already noted above, should be kept in mind. They are —

- (1) Advertising the general principles of the movement;
- (2) Advertising the general advantages of the local society;
- (3) Advertising particular goods or classes of goods and their prices.

These various classes of advertising overlap and blend, but they are sufficiently distinct to indicate the need of separate consideration in preparing an advertisement scheme.

Advertising of the first type borders closely upon propaganda and education, advertising of the third type is not quite as closely connected with propaganda and education, though the claims of the purity of goods and the good labour conditions obtaining in co-operative establishments should not be overlooked in drafting advertisements falling into class 3. The first type is general to the movement, the last is particular to the society, and even, it may be, to one department of the society; whilst the second type concerns the society as a whole. Advertisements bringing out the merits of co-operation as a means of raising the status of the worker fall into class 1; advertisements pointing out what the society has done in the way of sharing dividends with its members and providing collective life insurance fall into class 2; whilst advertisements that co-operative tea is the best in town fall into class 3.

Advertising of the first type can best be undertaken in conjunction with the Co-operative Union Propaganda Department, and we recommend the maintenance of continuous advertising by the Co-operative Union in co-operation with local societies as a part of the Union's propaganda work. We recommend, further, that a great national propaganda campaign be undertaken by the Union and societies every few years or, alternatively, that such a campaign be undertaken in each section of the United Kingdom by turns, so that an extensive and intensive campaign is always going on in one section with the experience of the Union's Propaganda Department at the command of those directing the campaign.

For these campaigns, the vans, organisers, propagandists, speakers, cinematograph films, lantern slides, literature, &c., already recommended should be utilised; and the propaganda and publicity committees of local societies should have the resources for this and other forms of propaganda tabulated and within reach at all times. Advertising by means of the distribution and sale of co-operative literature should also be utilised.

For advertising of the second type, the society should use the conventional methods of press, poster, and handbill advertisements, distributing also co-operative literature which advertises the society, *e.g.*, a local "Record,"

or localised "Wheatsheaf." Illuminated signs, advertisements on vans, and the processions already suggested, are also recommended; but care should be used in all forms of advertisement that the advertisements are tasteful though bold and not displeasing to the eye. Societies should also send forward to the local press, notes likely to be of interest, *e.g.*, when they hold a propaganda meeting or open a new branch or department; and they should send out press tickets when they have any public or semi-public function.

Advertising of the third type is principally the concern of the manager or departmental managers of a society, though departmental advertising should be co-ordinated by the general manager or the society's publicity department, this department being prepared and able to advise upon methods and forms of advertising. It is believed that much money is wasted by societies in their advertising which frequently is of a kind that does not attract or impress. In this connection, societies are urged to recommend their officials to utilise the classes in advertising to be arranged by the Co-operative Union. Their attention is drawn to the proposed Manual on Co-operative Advertising.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

A.—EDUCATION.

For the purpose of directing attention to, and the discussion of, vital points, we present our principal recommendations in summarised form.

1. The formation, for advisory purposes, of a National Co-operative Auxiliary for Educational and General Purposes.

2. The appointment therefrom of an educational executive of seven members to undertake the detailed educational administrative work of the Union.

3. The financing of the educational work of the Union—

(a) The allocation for educational purposes of not less than 20 per cent of the subscriptions of societies affiliated to the Union, the contemplated items of expenditure being submitted by the Educational Executive to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in the form of an annual budget.

(b) The creation, by voluntary subscription, of a Co-operative Education Extension Fund for the purpose of assisting co-operative education and educational organisations in those cases where financial disability is preventing successful work.

(c) Allocation of funds for a central library and slide department, from which, also, books and slides could be circulated.

(d) The equal division of the Blandford Fund collected at Congress between charities and co-operative scholarships.

4. The provision of research and other scholarships.

5. The appointment of travelling teachers.

6. The establishment of an association of co-operative educationalists.

7. The publication of a monthly educational journal.
8. The extensive development of the Summer School movement in all parts of the United Kingdom, and the arrangement of additional schools of short duration, *e.g.*, week-end schools.
9. The development of the Library at Holyoake House, both as a reference library and a lending library, with the issue of boxes of books and the formation of a special co-operative officials' library.
10. The better organisation of the lantern-slide department and the addition of cinema films; and the appointment of lecturers.
11. The development of the Statistical Department and Trade Information Bureau of the Union, as outlined in the body of the report.
12. The stimulating of public authorities to provide more generous facilities for higher education.
13. Active co-operation by co-operators with the Workers' Educational Association, Ruskin College (Oxford), the Working Men's College (London), and other working-class educational organisations.
14. The establishment of a co-operative college and the development of educational work at Summer Schools and Holyoake House on lines leading to the establishment of the college.
15. Greater activity on the part of educational committees of retail distributive societies, both among co-operators and other members of the working classes; more attention being paid to classes and relatively less to entertainments; and the appointment wherever possible of a full-time secretary for education.
16. The fixing of the educational grant of retail distributive societies on the basis of membership rather than on percentage of profits.
17. The constitution of educational committees of retail distributive societies on lines that will secure the representation of all sections of membership or organisations in connection with a retail distributive society, that are or ought to be interested in education.
18. Development of the work of educational associations through the widening of membership, increase of funds, the exercise of greater initiative, and greater participation in the general educational work of the movement, assisted by more frequent conferences with, and joint work with, the central and local educational committees.
19. The adoption of a constitution for educational associations on lines that will secure a better representation of persons and organisations interested in co-operative education.
20. Greater educational activity on the part of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, other federal societies, and the productive societies.
21. The allocation by the federal societies and the co-partnership societies of an educational grant of 5s. per employee per year.
22. The formation by the federal societies and the co-partnership societies of special educational committees.

23. The more frequent holding of conferences of teachers.

24. The development of the educational work of the men's and women's guilds.

25. The development of work among junior co-operators by the development of junior classes and the more extensive formation of young people's circles and junior guilds.

26. The development of the Educational Programme of the Union's Education Committee by the continuous addition of new subjects to the curriculum and by the addition of new features of interest to the Programme from year to year.

27. The more frequent utilisation of the Union's advisory services in educational matters.

28. The adoption of a uniform system of account keeping for educational departments.

B.—CO-OPERATIVE LITERATURE.

SECTION I.—JOURNALS.

1. The removal of overlapping between the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator* by the establishment of one paper for the whole of the United Kingdom, with different sections to meet the needs of the various sections of the movement.

2. The recognition of the principle that our journals should be valued for their propaganda services, and not be dependent for their existence and success upon advertisement revenue, but subsidised, if necessary, by the movement as a whole.

3. That the *Millgate Monthly* be recognised as a magazine of a general character, and that efforts be made to secure a bigger circulation for it in the open market.

4. That *Our Circle* be issued by the Education Department of the Co-operative Union.

5. That the *Producer* be issued weekly, and include market reports and additional business features.

6. That the *Wheatsheaf* be enlarged and its features more frequently varied.

7. That a co-operative officials' magazine be issued by the Secretaries' and Managers' Associations jointly, or in conjunction with the Educational Department of the Co-operative Union.

8. That meetings of local editors of the *Wheatsheaf* be continued, and that editors of other local records be also invited to attend these conferences; further, that other steps be taken to improve the localised pages of the *Wheatsheaf*.

9. The enlargement and monthly publication of the Co-operative Union *Quarterly Review* under a new name, with new features.

10. The publication monthly of the *Co-operator Educator*.

11. The enlargement of the *International Co-operative Bulletin*.

12. The inclusion of articles of a more educational character in the *Co-operative Employee*.

13. The establishment of a *Co-operative and Labour Review*, to be published monthly.

14. The establishment of a monthly magazine for women co-operators.

15. Frequent meetings of editors and managers of co-operative publications to secure greater co-ordination of effort and improved circulation.

16. The appointment by the organisations issuing co-operative publications jointly of a circulation manager.

17. The development of the Publications Department at the headquarters of the Co-operative Union.

SECTION II.—PAMPHLETS.

1. Greater care in the selection of subjects for conference papers and greater supervision over the printing of the papers.

2. Greater uniformity in the size and shape of conference papers and pamphlets.

SECTION III.—BOOKS.

1. The publication of various books enumerated in the body of the report.

2. The revision and supplementing of the co-operative song books and the provision of suitable choral music.

3. The preparation of additional co-operative plays.

4. The preparation of a book of co-operative recitations.

5. The preparation of one or more co-operative novels.

SECTION IV.—THE SALE OF CO-OPERATIVE LITERATURE.

1. Improved facilities in local societies for co-operative literature.

2. The formation of a co-operative bookselling society, with branches in various towns as required.

C.—PROPAGANDA.

SECTION 1.—REGARDING THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

1. The establishment of a Propaganda Department of the Union, which would take over the work hitherto done by the Propaganda Committees and Exhibition Committee.

2. The appointment of organisers and propaganda agents.

3. The training of organisers, propagandists, speakers, and canvassers in classes arranged by the Union; and the compilation of a speakers' handbook.

4. The arrangements of exhibitions on a more extensive scale than hitherto.

5. The arrangement of propaganda tours, and the provision of touring vans.

6. The arrangement of indoor and outdoor meetings, and the provision of the necessary adjuncts, such as lantern slides, cinematograph films, and

literature; also the preparation of a suitable selection of songs for use at propaganda meetings.

7. The arrangement from time to time of a national advertising scheme.

8. The arrangement of classes on advertising, and the preparation of a Manual on Co-operative Advertising.

SECTION 2.—REGARDING RETAIL SOCIETIES.

1. The establishment in retail societies of a publicity department, representing the management and educational committees of societies, with the guilds and employees, with a permanent secretary wherever possible.

2. The holding of meetings (indoor and outdoor) by the society itself, jointly with neighbouring societies, or in conjunction with the district association, the sectional boards, or/and the Propaganda Department of the Co-operative Union.

3. The employment of judicious press, poster, and handbill advertising; the arrangement of exhibitions, shopping weeks, and processions.

4. The appointment of canvassers to wait upon members whose loyalty is weak, and upon non-members with a view to increasing membership and trade.

5. The appointment of deputations to wait upon trade-union branches and friendly societies.

6. The better circulation of co-operative literature.

W. R. RAE, Chairman.

A. MANN.

F. HALL,

C. E. WOOD, } Secretaries.

} Joint

} Survey Educational
Sub-committee.

Report approved and adopted by General Co-operative Survey Committee.

(Signed)

W. R. RAE, Chairman.

G. BISSET.

W. H. BRYANT.

W. T. CHARTER.

R. FLEMING.

W. GREGORY.

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M. HUNTER (Mrs.).

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A. WHITEHEAD, General Secretary.

F. HALL,

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Secretaries.

37. NATIONAL POLICY.

The Central Board has prepared suggestions regarding a National Policy, a National Co-operative Programme, and a National Co-operative Propaganda and Advertising Scheme for consideration by the Swansea Congress and submits the same herewith.

(a) NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE POLICY.

This statement may be taken as approved by Congress as a declaration of policy which in the opinion of the Co-operative Union should guide co-operative societies in their various activities. It is not put forward as a complete statement of the points upon which a national policy might be declared; but as the beginning of the formulation of such a policy. Revision and addition from time to time will be necessary.

POINTS OF THE POLICY.

1. MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of a retail distributive society should be open, *i.e.*, membership should be permitted to as many members of a family as care to join.

2. ENTRANCE FEES.

To be low.

3. CAPITAL.

No restrictions on the accumulation of capital, either by fixing a limit to the amount a member may hold or in any other way.

Members to be required to hold at least the minimum amount of share capital required by the rules of their society.

The removal of the £200 limit now imposed by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts upon members' share holding.

The development of small savings banks.

The removal of the restriction of £20 limit on small-savings deposits or the increase of the present maximum to £50.

4. PRICES.

Prices not to exceed the current prices of the district.

5. RESERVE FUNDS.

Reserve funds to equal at least 20 per cent of share and loan capital.

6. CREDIT.

Cash payments in all transactions.

7. DEPRECIATION.

Depreciation to be at the rate of at least 2½ per cent on buildings and shops; 10 per cent on fixed stock and plant; and 20 per cent on rolling stock. Depreciation to be based on original values.

8. LABOUR.

The payment of at least the trade-union district rate of wages for the occupation, or the minimum rates as approved by Congress from

time to time, whichever is higher. The recognition of the trade-union local standard of hours and general conditions of labour as a minimum in each occupation.

9. OVERLAPPING.

The removal of overlapping. The marking of boundaries or the amalgamation of competing societies where boundaries cannot be fixed or where amalgamation will lead to greater efficiency.

10. RAW MATERIALS.

The acquisition and co-operative ownership of sources of supply of raw materials.

11. EDUCATION.

The encouragement and development of co-operative education

(b) POINTS FOR A NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE CONGRESS YEAR, 1917-1918.

MEMBERSHIP.

Open membership to be encouraged. Societies to be circularised and visited. Efforts to be made to increase membership.

CAPITAL.

Societies to be urged to persuade members to deposit capital and leave their dividends and interest with their society. Societies to be pressed to establish or develop small-savings banks, and to remove all restriction on the accumulation of share and loan capital.

TRADE AND LOYALTY.

Societies to be urged to appoint canvassers to keep in touch with their members, particularly when their purchases are falling; and to stimulate loyalty by educational work and by improving business efficiency.

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY.

Societies to be urged to improve the efficiency of their business administration by keeping in touch with new and improved methods, by encouraging the technical training of their employees, and by securing better co-ordination between various departments.

DEPRECIATION AND RESERVES.

Societies to be urged to depreciate liberally and increase reserves.

DIVIDENDS AND PRICES.

Societies to be recommended not to increase dividends, but to keep prices down.

EXTENSIONS AFTER THE WAR.

Societies to be pressed to prepare schemes for extending co-operative distributive and productive activities when the war is over.

INSURANCE AND BANKING.

The undertaking of propaganda for the extension of co-operative insurance and banking.

EDUCATION.

Stimulating all forms of educational effort, including salesmen's classes, lectures to managers, and lectures to committees.

Securing a better connection and greater co-ordination of effort between the general committee, the education committee, and other organisations of retail distributive societies.

Propaganda to be carried on to create public opinion in favour of a greatly improved system of national education.

PROPAGANDA, ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Arrangement of a national propaganda to increase membership, capital and trade (see special scheme).

Appointment of organisers on the Union staff for propaganda, organising and administrative purposes.

AFTER-WAR PROBLEMS.

Arranging conferences on after-war problems for the discussion of specially-prepared papers, read usually by the trained persons mentioned below.

Arranging classes on after-war problems; the Co-operative Union

(a) To arrange classes for training speakers and teachers of classes in this subject, and

(b) To arrange (jointly with local societies) members' classes in this subject all over the country, to be taught by the teachers trained as suggested above.

INCOME TAX.

Preparation and circulation of literature on this subject.

Arrangement of meetings, lectures and classes on this subject all over the country, to be taken by the trained speakers and teachers suggested below.

Arrangement of training classes for speakers and teachers to be employed for lectures, conferences, and classes on Income Tax.

LITERATURE.

The preparation of necessary literature required for carrying out the above programme and particularly the preparation of papers on

(a) The National Programme and its Realisation.

(b) After-War Problems.

(c) Income Tax (if additional papers are required).

(d) The National Propaganda Scheme.

GENERAL.

The programme to be first discussed by the United Board, the Sectional Boards, and Congress; and afterwards by the Sectional Boards with their District Association Executives, and by these executives with the committees of the societies in their district.

The General Secretary of the Union to confer with Sectional Secretaries and explain and discuss methods of carrying out the programme.

The papers prepared on the programme to be discussed at least once by each section and district conference association. Organisers to

be appointed on the Union staff and to be employed in visiting societies in the various sections to assist in carrying out the national programme, keeping in touch with the sectional boards and the Union headquarters. Frequent conferences to be held of all sectional secretaries and organisers with headquarters staff.

(c) NATIONAL PROPAGANDA AND ADVERTISING SCHEME.

OBJECTS.

- To introduce co-operation in districts where no society now exists.
- To develop loyalty, increase membership, capital and trade in the areas covered by existing societies.
- To develop co-operative productive, distributive, and general activity.

METHODS.

The preparation and working out of a scheme for a simultaneous propaganda effort all over the United Kingdom.

The scheme to be directed and controlled by the Union from Holyoake House, and worked through Sectional Boards and District Associations, with Local or District Committees upon which the Guilds might be represented with Management and Educational Committees.

The Survey Committee's report to be consulted and the country mapped out into areas—

- (a) Where the Union directly must undertake propaganda (these will be districts where there are few societies).
- (b) Where the Union will co-operate with local societies in propaganda effort in the districts covered by these societies.

To carry out the scheme it will be necessary—

- (1) To prepare a quantity of suitable pamphlets.
- (2) To prepare a list of competent speakers available in various parts of the country.
- (3) To prepare a huge advertising scheme, utilising national and local magazines and papers, hoardings and handbills.
- (4) To arrange attractive outdoor and indoor meetings (with music and lantern slides or cinematograph films where possible).
- (5) To have vans for missionary purposes.
- (6) To prepare a speakers' handbook, containing data which speakers will require when addressing meetings, also outline notes of addresses
- (7) To have canvassers (and voluntary workers) for house-to-house visiting, to distribute literature, to secure the nucleus of an audience for the meetings, and to have organiser in the various sections to assist in supervising the work and keeping it in touch with the Sectional Board and the headquarters of the Union.

- (8) To have training classes for the canvassers and speakers.
- (9) To arrange exhibitions and some house-to-house distribution of samples.

TIME OF COMMENCING.

The fact that prices are rising so rapidly makes the present a very opportune time for undertaking the scheme, as the public may be less interested in co-operation if prices fall after the war. Having regard, however, to the difficulties of securing staff and of securing supplies to supply the present membership, it seems desirable that the actual launching of the propaganda should be deferred until nearer the end of the war. It is essential, however, that the preparations should be undertaken *now*, so that propaganda can be commenced immediately the time is opportune. It will take at least six months to prepare the necessary pamphlets, handbooks, and lantern slides, to train the speakers required, and to complete the necessary preliminary organisation.

FUNDS.

A sum of £50,000 to £100,000 should be obtained. This fund would be jointly contributed by the Union, the Wholesales, the Productive Societies, and the Retail Societies. This figure would include the money spent by, or on behalf of, retail distributive societies in their own area. A scheme of finance might be prepared by which for each £1 contributed by a society for local propaganda, a contribution of £1 was made from the national fund.

38. CONCILIATION BOARDS.

The formation of conciliation boards authorised by Congress were completed early last year. The constitution provides for a National Board, consisting of ten members, five elected through the Co-operative Union, five from the A.U.C.E., and an independent chairman. It also provides for district boards, each composed of eight members, four elected by societies and the Sectional Boards, and four from the A.U.C.E.

Seven cases have been submitted to the district boards. Two of these came before the Northern Board, two before the Yorkshire Board, one before the Lancashire Board, and one each before the Western and Scottish Boards. In two cases the district boards failed to agree; one of these was handed over to the National Board, which met, with C. Doughty, Esq., who had been appointed by the Board of Trade, as chairman. The other case was referred to Mr. Doughty, who acted for the Board of Trade as a direct arbitrator, and a compromise was effected.

The following are the particulars of the cases considered by the various Boards :—

NATIONAL BOARD.

The first case remitted to the National Conciliation Board was in connection with Halifax Society and its employés. The committee met at

Halifax on 24th November, 1916. Mr. Charles Doughty, acting as chairman, commented on the fact that this was the first meeting of the National Board for consideration of a case, and said that great care should be exercised in coming to a decision, as precedents may be formed for future meetings. He then read the terms of reference and called upon representatives from each side to state their case; afterwards the Board considered the case, and eventually the following award was unanimously agreed to:—

1. The hours of the central and all branches shall be fifty and a half hours from the first Monday in December, 1916, and this is without prejudice to the national policy of the A.U.C.E.

2. The war bonus now paid is abolished.

3. A new bonus of 25 per cent increase upon the earnings of those earning up to and including £2 a week, and 17½ per cent increase upon the earnings of those earning more than £2 a week shall be paid.

4. This award does not apply to craftsmen.

5. These increases shall be paid from the commencement of the first complete week in October, 1916, and shall continue for six months after the declaration of peace with Germany, the question of rates to be paid thereafter shall be the subject of negotiation between the Union and the Society.

DISTRICT BOARDS.

(a) NORTHERN.

Two cases have been dealt with by the Northern Board. The first was a dispute between the Esh Co-operative Society and the Esh Branch of the A.U.C.E., and had reference to an employé who was primarily appointed by the society to take charge of a branch, on probation for six months, and was subsequently transferred to the position of second counter-man at the central.

The case was referred to the Board to examine evidence, facts, and witnesses on matters which had contributed to the cause of such transference, to determine what loss of status had accrued to the individual through the action of the committee, and to state whether the action of the committee in all the circumstances had justification. Further to decide, in the event of justification failing to be established, what course should be taken to restore the *status quo*.

The Board met, and after considering the evidence, came to the conclusion following:—

1. That seeing the committee had no confidence in the employé as a branch manager, they were within their rights in removing him from the branch, but the Board think that, owing to their (the committee) not having taken stock at his incoming and outgoing, they have failed to prove to the Board his incompetency.

2. That, in the opinion of this Board, the employé in question has lost status in the minds of the general public, but this Board finds he has done nothing to incur same.

The second case was a difference between the West Stanley Co-operative Society and their cartmen, members of the A.U.C.E., in reference to the performance of duties during the grazing season and their remuneration for same.

The Board considered the evidence submitted to them, and made the following award :—

1. That the society be asked to pay during the grazing season to each man taking his horse or horses to and bringing them from the field the sum of 1s. 6d. per week extra.

2. That this award shall be retrospective to the beginning of the grazing season of this year.

3. That we consider this is for special duties performed, and not on base wage.

4. That this award is made on the merits of the West Stanley case, and must not be taken as a precedent or to apply to any other society which may have different arrangements.

(b) LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.

The only case heard by this District Board was in reference to an application for the payment of a new scale of wages, made by the A.U.C.E. on behalf of the employés of the Manchester Laundries Society. The matter had been before the Hours and Wages Board for the Manchester district, and, after protracted negotiations with that Board, it was decided to drop the wages agitation for the present and discuss the question of a war bonus, failing to arrive at a settlement, the case was remitted to the Conciliation Board.

The Board met in Manchester on 13th February, 1917, and gave their award as follows :—

It is hereby agreed this thirteenth day of February, 1917, with respect to the amount of an additional war bonus to be paid to the employés of the Manchester District Co-operative Laundries Association—

To all employés (other than those specifically mentioned below), twenty-one years of age and over, an additional bonus of 2s. 6d. per week.

To all employés under twenty-one years of age an additional bonus of 1s. 6d. per week.

That all carters and vanmen shall receive the rates of wages and war bonus as agreed upon between the Manchester Hours and Wages Board and the Carters' Union.

That all motormen receive an additional war bonus of 1s. per week.

That the payment of the above advances shall be paid retrospectively as and from the first pay-day in January, 1917.

(c) YORKSHIRE DISTRICT.

Two cases have been remitted to this Board for consideration. The first case was on behalf of the employés of the Keighley Industrial Society, on the question of wages and conditions of employment. Evidence was

given by both parties to the dispute and the case carefully considered, when the following award was given:—

1. That there be an immediate reduction in the total number of hours worked from 53 to 52 hours per week, and that the consideration of the Union's claim for the establishment of a 48 hours week be deferred.

2. That the rates of pay for juniors in all departments (productive and distributive) be as follows:—

Males.

Age ...	14 ..	15 ..	16 ..	17 ..	18 ..	19 ..	20
Wages..	6s. ..	8s. ..	10s. ..	12s. ..	15s. ..	18s. ..	21s.

Females.

Age	14 ..	15 ..	16 ..	17 ..	18 ..	19 ..	20
Wages...	5s. ..	7s. ..	9s. ..	11s. ..	13s. ..	15s. ..	17s.

3. That shop assistants (male), all departments, shall be paid as under—

Age	21 ..	22 ..	23 ..	24 ..	25
Wages..	24s. ..	25s. 6d. ..	27s. ..	28s. 6d. ..	30s.

4. That shop assistants (female), all departments (other than those engaged to substitute male labour), shall be paid as under—

Age	21 ..	22 ..	23
Wages	19s. ..	21s. ..	23s.

5. That branch managers (grocery) shall be paid 3s. per week on existing rates.

6. That branch managers (boot and shoe) shall be paid not less than 32s. 6d. per week.

7. That branch managers (butchering) shall be paid not less than 35s per week, with the exception of the two juniors in charge of small shops. These shall be paid a special rate of 22s. per week. The head slaughterman shall be paid at least 2s. per week above branch manager.

8. That men in charge of branch clog shops, shall be paid 32s. 6d. per week.

9. That men in charge of branch fish and fruit shops, shall be paid 32s. 6d. per week, and that hawkers shall be paid on male shop assistant rates.

10. That head saleswomen (other than those substituting for male labour) shall be paid on the following scale—

Age	21 ..	22 ..	23 ..	24
Wages	22s. ..	24s. ..	26s. ..	28s.

11. That no alteration be made in the wages of the present warehouseman.

12. That motormen be paid 35s. on appointment, rising 2s. 6d. per week per annum to 40s. per week.

13. That the whole of the awards, numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, shall be minimum rates, and no employé at present being paid in excess of these rates shall have his or her wages reduced.

14. That in respect of the demand for increased rates for overtime, we make no award.

15. That, in addition to the above minimum rates, war bonus shall be paid on the following scale:—

To all male adults	4s. per week.
To all female adults	3s. „
To all juniors (male or female)	2s. „

The second case remitted to this District Board was in reference to an application made by the A.U.C.E. on behalf of the Halifax Industrial Society's employes. The Board met on two occasions, but unfortunately failed to arrive at a satisfactory settlement, so referred the case for the decision of the National Board, whose award is given in the earlier part of this report.

(d) SCOTTISH.

The only case dealt with by this Board was in connection with the dispute between the Milngavie Co-operative Society and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employes in July, 1916. A meeting of the Board was held in the Society's Board Room at Milngavie on Tuesday, 18th July, at which evidence was submitted by both parties. After careful consideration of the evidence submitted, rates were adjusted as follows:—

1. Boys and juniors—

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	year of experience.
8s.	10s.	12s.	16s.	20s.	accepted by society.

2. Male shop assistants and clerks, after 5 years' experience—

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	year of experience.
A.U.C.E. claim	30s.	32s.	33s.	34s.	35s.	
Offered by society	29s.	30s.	31s.	32s.	33s.	
Award	30s.	31s.	32s.	33s.	35s.	

3. Girls, female assistants, and clerks—

A.U.C.E. claim	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	year of experience
	8s.	10s.	12s.	16s.	20s.	22s.	24s.	
Offered by society	7s.	8s.	6d.	10s.	12s.	15s.	18s.	20s.
Award	8s.	10s.	12s.	14s.	16s.	20s.	22s.	

4. Branch managers—

A.U.C.E. claim	40s. per week.	Offered by society	38s. per week.
Award	39s.		„

5. Branch manageresses—

A.U.C.E. claim	30s. per week.	Offered by society	25s. per week.
Award—Drapery	27s. per week;	dairy	25s. per week.

6.— Vanmen. Coal Lorrymen. Assistant Coalmen.

A.U.C.E. claim	34s.	36s.	30s.
Offered by society	31s.	34s.	28s.
Award	32s.	34s.	29s.

(e) WESTERN.

This Board has had to deal with one case only. A manager of the boot stores at Pontycynmmer had been dismissed by the management com-

mittee of the society. The official in question contended that he had been wrongfully dismissed, and applied through the A.U.C.E. that his case should be considered by the Conciliation Board.

The Board met at Bridgend on 29th May, 1916, when, after methods of procedure had been decided upon, the case for the society was laid before the Board.

The Board adjourned to the 4th June, when the aggrieved official was examined. A further adjournment was made to the 22nd June, when the general manager of the society attended and gave evidence. A prolonged discussion took place, and proposals for a settlement were made by both parties. No proposal received the approval of the whole Board, and ultimately the case was referred to the National Conciliation Board. Instead, however, of calling the National Board to decide the matter, both parties agreed to accept the judgment of an independent arbitrator selected by the Board of Trade. The arbitrator met the two sides at Cardiff, and ultimately his decision was accepted by both parties.

39. HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

The approval of the Lancaster Congress to the establishment of district hours and wages, was considered by the United Board at its first meeting after Congress, and the various Sectional Boards were instructed to take the necessary steps for their formation.

A draft code of rules for the guidance of the district boards was submitted to the Sectional Boards, and with slight alterations to meet the varying local circumstances was adopted.

The following are the

SUGGESTED RULES FOR THE

GUIDANCE OF HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

1. The objects of the Board shall be, by conciliatory means, to use its influence to avert stoppages ; prevent disputes ; to put an end to any stoppage or dispute that may arise ; or to settle any difference arising in any society as to the rates (other than Congress rates and those governed by Trades Boards Acts or other Acts of Parliament), regulations, customs, and conditions of employment prevailing, or to prevail, in any society, which may be submitted to the Board either by societies or employé's organisations concerned in the district.

2 (a). The Board shall consist of representatives appointed annually by and from societies in the district, such representatives to be members of committees of management or officials, one representative from the district association, and one from the Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union Limited. No society shall have more than one representative.

(b) The societies in each district shall, on voting papers being sent to them for that purpose annually, elect..... societies which are members

of the Co-operative Union, and which have agreed to join the scheme, and each society elected shall appoint one representative from its committee of management or one of its officials to act on the Hours and Wages Board.

(c) In case of a vacancy arising on the Board, either through the death or resignation of a representative, the society of which he was a member shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

Or, as an alternative to "b" and "c" :—

(d) the societies in each district shall, on papers being sent to them for that purpose, nominate representatives, who must be members of the committee of management or officials of societies members of the Union, situate within that area which have agreed to join the scheme. Voting papers shall then be sent to the societies containing the names of the persons nominated, and each society joining the scheme shall be entitled to one vote for each of the number of representatives required. Representatives from the Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union shall be appointed to act on the Hours and Wages Board; also a representative from each district association comprised within the area.

(e) In case of a vacancy arising on the Board, either through the death or resignation of a representative, such vacancy shall be filled by appointing the unsuccessful candidate receiving the highest number of votes, provided he has obtained not less than 20 per cent of the total number of votes that could be obtained. In case a vacancy cannot be thus filled, nomination and voting papers shall be issued as per clause (d).

3. The Board shall elect annually its own chairman, who shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member of the Board.

4. The Board shall appoint annually its own secretary, who shall keep proper records of all proceedings at meetings of the Board. All meetings shall be convened by notice signed by the secretary and sent to each member of the Board at least seven days before the day fixed for the meeting.

5. Societies receiving demands from, or on behalf of, any of their employés are requested to forward same to this Board, which shall meet representatives of the interested parties to discuss the question. The Board shall then advise societies what, in its opinion, is the best course to adopt. In no case, however, shall they advise the adoption of less than the minimum rates mentioned in Rule 1. The Board shall have power to invite representatives from other societies not primarily concerned in the demand to meet it to discuss how far such demand affects all the societies in the district.

6. Failing the settlement by the Board of any question submitted to it, the same may be referred to the District Conciliation Board.

7. The Board may consider demands made by Craft Unions, but in case they cannot agree to accept such demands, the matter must be referred to the Joint Committee of Trades-unionists and Co-operators.

8. Miscellaneous expenses, such as printing, stationery, and postages, shall be paid from the funds of the Co-operative Union Limited, but each

Board will be required to furnish details of such expenses to the Sectional Board.

9. The chairman and secretary shall have power to convene meetings whenever occasion demands.

10. The expenses of the members of the Board shall be defrayed by the societies they respectively represent, or from a special fund raised for the purpose by societies agreeing to the scheme of Hours and Wages Boards.

Boards have been formed in almost all the sections, and in many instances have done valuable work. We are pleased to say that the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés has agreed to recognise such boards.

40. WAR EMERGENCY: WORKERS' NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

The Co-operative Union has continued to be represented by Mrs. M. A. Gasson and Mr. B. Williams, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee by Mr. H. J. May.

Many matters of importance have had the consideration of the committee. One which received a great deal of attention was that of old-age pensions, and it was due to the committee's persistent agitation that a 50 per cent increase has been granted in necessitous cases. The administration of naval and military pensions also received careful consideration, and the committee urged concentration under one Government department with a Pensions Minister responsible to Parliament. The Government were eventually constrained to adopt this scheme, as it appeared to be the only one that would prove workable. After months of opposition from Government and House of Commons, the proposals were finally accepted, and five separate departments are now unified under the control of the Ministry of Pensions, of which the Right Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P., is the first minister. A Bill to provide necessary machinery and power to defray cost of administration has been prepared, and will receive immediate attention.

FOOD PRICES.

In the matter of food prices the committee has been, generally speaking some two years in advance of the belated actions of Government and the permanent officials. Contact with the latter gentlemen quickly shows how much influence they wield, and what a conservative power it is. If the suggestions made by the committee within two or three months of the outbreak of war had been adopted, we should have seen a guaranteed price offered to farmers for certain produce, and the present disastrous situation might not have arisen. The Government refused to accept any and every suggestion until too late, and prices of food and other domestic requirements rose to high figures before any attempt was made to stop the advance. What happened with wheat and coal has recently happened with potatoes, although a new Government of hustlers were prepared to show how they could improve on their predecessors. Food has now risen 93 per cent over the level of

July, 1914, and there appears little prospect of any stay in the upward tendency.

The committee has performed valuable services to the public by the wide dissemination of leaflets showing the constant advance of food prices. Figures obtained largely from co-operative sources have been of great assistance.

In the early autumn of 1916, when food prices had increased 60 to 70 per cent, the agitation for the "pound a week" separation allowance for soldiers' wives was revived. Successful conferences were held throughout the country, and promises of increased allowances were secured.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

The committee has made various suggestions for the development of our own resources for the production of food. In December they proposed that the Board of Agriculture should take into their own hands at least 4,000,000 acres of the land at present abandoned to grass or fallow or private parks, and organise a civilian body of labour for cultivation, harvesting, and the bringing of harvest to market at such prices as would permit the quartern loaf to be sold at sixpence; empower local authorities to utilise all vacant or idle land; and offer capital to local authorities and also to co-operative societies, to enable them to bring additional land into cultivation. These suggestions formed the basis of the resolutions submitted to the National Joint Conference of Labour and Co-operative Delegates held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on 7th December, 1916. They were carried by acclamation.

It was also suggested that all stocks of wheat, potatoes, and other necessary produce in the country should be commandeered at prices based on the cost of production. The dilatory methods of the Government permitted wheat to rise to 80s. per quarter, potatoes to £12 per ton, and milk to 6d. and 7d. per quart, before action was taken.

In response to an appeal from the Scottish Labour Party the committee took up the question of ill-regulated sugar distribution. Mr. H. J. May rendered valuable service by securing accurate information from a number of co-operative societies. A joint deputation waited upon Lord Devonport, when Mr. May, Mr. W. T. Charter and others put the case on behalf of the co-operative movement, and Mr. Sidney Webb and others for the War Emergency Committee. Lord Devonport made a definite promise that the basis of distribution should be altered, and that supplies should be more equitably shared out. This is the first joint deputation arranged since the War Emergency Committee was established, and the result has been sufficiently good to encourage the belief that many other working-class problems would benefit from similar treatment.

WAR PROFITS.

The committee was responsible for a wide distribution of the facts concerning the large war profits made by various industrial companies,

a leaflet contrasting the profits cleared by some 200 companies in 1914, 1915, and 1916, receiving considerable attention. A pamphlet prepared by Mr. Robert Williams, of the Transport Workers' Federation, showing the enormous advances in freight rates and the consequent heavy profits of shipping companies, had a large circulation. A deputation waited upon Mr. Asquith, who defended shipowners' profits on the ground that the shipping companies would require reserves for the building of new fleets on the return of peace. Considering that all ships lost are covered by insurance, it seemed pretty cool to suggest that the people should provide shipowners gratuitously with a new fleet. Mr. Asquith's suggestion caused considerable discussion in the country.

Among many other questions which received attention were increased and illegal rent extortions, the unsatisfactory way in which the retail prices of coal have been dealt with, industrial conscription, the conscription of wealth, war bonuses for women municipal employés, crèches for babies of women munition makers, &c.

CONCLUSION.

The co-operative representatives are convinced that the work performed by the committee in dealing with workers' problems arising from the war, and in drawing and holding together representatives of so many workers' organisations, is one of vital importance to the nation.

M. A. GASSON.

B. WILLIAMS.

H. J. MAY.

41. FOOD CONFERENCES.

The constantly increasing price of commodities, more particularly of many of the staple articles of food, has received the special attention of the Union on many occasions, and representations have been made to the Government with the request that steps should be taken to increase supplies, to commandeer shipping, and to control and regulate the distribution of food-stuffs. We also pointed out that the co-operative movement ought to be represented upon any committees that may be set up to deal with such distribution.

Unfortunately, we have not received that recognition which is certainly due to the movement. We advise all societies to keep a constant look-out for the formation of local committees and seek representation thereon.

In addition to taking part in joint conferences with other bodies, the Union arranged for four conferences to take place on 20th January, 1917, at Bristol, Leeds, London, and Edinburgh. The conferences were well attended and very representative, notwithstanding the increased railway fares.

The following resolutions were adopted unanimously at each conference, and copies were afterwards sent to the Prime Minister and Food Controller :—

1. That this conference, representing three and a half million co-operators, who, with their families, form one-fourth to one-third of the population of the United Kingdom, desires to welcome the action of the Government in attempting to deal with the question of supplies and prices of foodstuffs. Recognising that dearth of supplies, high cost of transport and profiteering are the main causes of the present high prices which are pressing with exceptional severity upon the poorer members of the community, and with a severity only a little less severe upon most other sections of the community, the conference calls upon the Government—
 - (a) To take steps at once to increase the supply of foodstuffs by increasing production at home and purchasing supplies abroad ;
 - (b) To commandeer shipping sufficient to import such supplies as have to come from abroad ; and
 - (c) To control and regulate the distribution of the principal necessities of life through approved channels in order to secure equality of treatment between all sections of the community, and in order to prevent individuals from obtaining excessive profits out of the needs of many.
2. That this conference, representing three and a half million co-operators, who, with their families, form one-fourth to one-third the population of the United Kingdom, desires to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the "co-operative movement" is the largest single purchaser and largest distributor of foodstuffs, and urges upon these grounds that the co-operative movement be represented upon any committees, local and national, that may be set up to deal with the distribution of foodstuffs.

42. HOLYOAKE CENTENARY.

In Commemoration of the Centenary of the birth of George Jacob Holyoake, the Co-operative Union arranged a ceremony in Birmingham, on Saturday, 14th April, 1917. This was of a simple but effective and inspiring character.

The proceedings took the form of a mass meeting, held in the fine Central Hall, Corporation Street, at which representatives from societies all over the country attended.

A bronze tablet had been prepared to be affixed to the Central Premises of the Birmingham Industrial Co-operative Society, in High Street, which is not very far distant from Inge Street, the place where Mr. Holyoake was born. Mr. E. O. Greening was chosen to perform the chief function of the

day, which was to hand over the tablet to the care of the Birmingham Co-operative Society, this he did in an eloquent speech, and was followed by Mrs. E. Holyoake-Marsh (Mr. Holyoake's daughter) and Mr. Jas. Deans.

In the evening a public meeting and concert was arranged, at which speeches were delivered by Messrs. G. Bastard and W. R. Rae.

A biographical sketch of the life of Mr. Holyoake had been prepared by Mr. Greening and distributed to the delegates attending the afternoon meeting, copies were also on sale.

43. SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

The following subjects have been selected by the Central Board for consideration, and resolutions prepared thereon :—

(1) CO-OPERATION AND AGRICULTURE.

To be introduced by Mr. R. Fleming (Irish Section).

The war has focused public attention, as perhaps nothing else could have done, upon the necessity of producing, within our own borders, the staple foods of the nation ; and the pronouncement which Mr. Lloyd George made on the 23rd February respecting this question may be taken, we presume, as the first intimation of a new departure in the relations of the State to agriculture. Under the policy which the Premier then foreshadowed the farmer and his assistants are to enjoy, for a period of at least six years, the guarantee of the Government as to prices for specified commodities, and a minimum wage for work. That policy is plainly far-reaching in its significance, for it alters the whole economic basis of industrial life, and although we are unable to make it harmonise with the agreement come to at Paris by the Allies as to the future of their trading relations, we must accept it for the present as the charter of the agriculturist at home.

The facts adduced by Mr. Lloyd George in defence of his policy are unhappily beyond dispute. " Four or five million acres of arable land have gone out of cultivation " since the Corn Laws were abolished, and " half the agricultural labour class has emigrated to the Colonies." From our lamentable indifference to these things the war has rudely awakened us, and we are now confronted with the problem of how to adjust ourselves, as co-operators, to present exigencies.

The leaders of co-operative thought have, in some measure, anticipated the State as to the importance of agricultural industry, and the purchase of land by many distributive societies, for dairying and other purposes, is evidence of our intention to keep in the van of this progressive movement. The Co-operative Wholesale Society is, of course, our great exemplar in the acquisition of land, and the recent purchase of 10,000 acres of Canadian corn land betokens the determination of the directors to observe the signs of the times. We naturally ask, however, are they observing those signs aright? Do they fully realise that a transmarine holding would be

utterly useless to the movement if the nation found, in the next war, that the trident had passed from British hands? The difficulty and cost of transport are additional factors of importance in this matter, for though the Co-operative Wholesale Society directors should build a fleet of ships, and were thus able to regulate and earn their own freights, they would still be confronted, so far as the Canadian estate is concerned, with that policy of fixed prices which the home Government has established.

It is manifest, therefore, that the extensive purchase of land within the ambit of the British Isles is the wisest policy to pursue; for by that means we should not only minimise the risks of war, but secure for ourselves whatever advantage protective prices may confer on other cultivators of the soil. The Co-operative Wholesale Society directors appear to fully realise these facts, and have recently been purchasing farms in English shires; but we believe that, at this juncture of our history, the pace should be sensibly quickened, and that in every part of the United Kingdom—in England and Wales, in Scotland, and in Ireland—the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the large distributive societies, should be staking out their claims.

Accordingly we submit for the approval of Congress the following resolution, viz. :—

RESOLUTION.

That this Congress considers it advisable in the interests of the consumer that farming be undertaken by distributive societies, either individually or in federation, as a means of controlling prices and supplies of foodstuffs and raw materials.

(2) THE MILK SUPPLY.

To be introduced by Mr. W. T. Charter (Southern Section).

The changes which are rapidly taking place in the conditions surrounding the agricultural industry are certain to have considerable effect upon the quantities and kinds of foodstuffs produced in this country. At present the indications point to an increasing scarcity of milk, and it would be advisable to take early steps to prevent a famine in that article. To thoroughly understand the gravity of the situation it is necessary to bear in mind that it is impossible to import milk in the same manner that cereals and flesh meat have been imported, to make up for home shortage. Milk must be produced in this country, and the nearer it is produced to the consumer the better for all concerned. The danger of the policy of drift with regard to home cereal production has at last been brought home to us all most vividly in the present war, and if we learn our lesson thoroughly we shall not allow a similar policy to deplete our home milk supply.

1. It is necessary that national control of milk production should be set up. This should begin with a calculation of the normal amount of milk needed to supply the nation's wants, and a census of the capacity of each farm to produce milk. The element of speculation should be taken out

of the business by the farmers being called upon to produce a stipulated quantity based upon the acreage farmed.

2. This will involve—

(a) Fixed prices to the grower and producer based on cost, to prevent loss;

(b) A definite standard of farming and the improvement of live stock;

(c) A definite standard of sanitation in the milking sheds, &c.

3. A national control of distribution must be established to prevent loss in sending supplies unnecessarily long distances. All milk must be sent direct from the farms to central depôts, where it will be cleaned and despatched to the nearest and most convenient retail areas. In turn, the retail areas must be organised to eliminate the enormous waste now resulting from overlapping in delivery. Under a complete organisation such as is outlined, it is obvious that there will be every facility for dealing with surpluses whenever they occur.

4. In all the operations sanitation will be an important matter to keep in view. Whilst the present laws governing this matter are a great improvement on what used to obtain, there is room for a further advance, and particularly in administration. Too many farmers are permitted to carry on milk production in conditions that are inimical to health.

These suggestions are put forward in order that steps may be taken to conserve and improve the milk supply, which, owing to its special use as a main article of food for infants and children, should have more attention concentrated upon it. For these reasons the following resolution is submitted:—

RESOLUTION.

In view of the importance of obtaining the sufficient production and effective distribution of pure milk, it is in the national interest that the supply should be permanently under Government control, and its sales supervised by the granting of licenses to those distributors only whose methods are in accordance with regulations so framed as to secure cleanliness, purity, economy of distribution, and a fair price to the consumer.

(3) NATIONALISATION OF THE RAILWAY AND WATERWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

To be introduced by Mr. J. Millington (Midland Section).

The subject will be introduced under the following heads:—

1. Railways—Economy. Previous to the war there was wasteful competition between the companies; canvassers; useless trains; clearing-house system.

2. Railways and canals should be developed for passengers and trade. Light railways and canals for development of agriculture and industry, and as feeders to the trunk lines.

3. Safety in working to avoid accidents to passengers, but more especially to employes.

4. Present canals to be freed from the strangling influence of the railway companies. Through rates instituted and new method of locomotion.

5. Now is an opportune time. The war has shown that the State can work them.

6. Purchase at present market value of shares. Give Government stock in place of railway stock with present rate of interest.

RESOLUTION:

That this Co-operative Congress is of opinion that the railways and waterways of the United Kingdom should be nationalised and worked in the interests of the people's convenience in travel, trade, and commerce. The shareholders to be treated in a fair and equitable manner.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade.

BENEVOLENT FUNDS.

44. THE BLANDFORD MEMORIAL.

The Blandford Memorial Fund, contributed by the delegates attending the Lancaster Congress, amounted to £71. 11s. 7d.; of this amount £20 was allocated to the scholarships awarded in connection with the advanced examination in co-operation held under the auspices of the educational department. These scholarships were awarded to Mrs. P. Hardstaff (Gourrock) and Mr. A. Green (Birmingham).

The balance of the amount was expended by a grant of £10. 10s. to the Royal Albert Institution, Lancaster, for the feeble-minded of the Northern Counties, and £37. 12s. in purchasing a piano for presentation to the Infirmary. An inscription plate has been placed upon the piano, showing that it was the gift of the Lancaster Congress in memory of Thomas Blandford.

Both presentations were made in the name of the Co-operative Union, by Mr. W. Gregory, the president of the Congress, and the committees of the institutions expressed their thanks for and appreciation of the gifts.

45. EDWARD OWEN GREENING TESTIMONIAL.

The appeal issued by the Union to co-operative societies and associations for grants to provide a testimonial to Mr. Edward Owen Greening, resulted in the total sum of £1,239. 3s. 6d. being obtained. The amount has been invested in the Co-operative Wholesale Society bank, from which monthly payments are made to Mr. Greening.

The fund is still open and the Union will be pleased to receive donations from any society that has not yet responded to the appeal.

46. ANGLO-RUSSIAN HOSPITAL FUND.

The appeal issued to societies for funds to provide beds in the Russian Red Cross Hospitals, resulted in the sum of £1,314. 7s. being realised. The cost and endowment of each bed is £100, therefore we are supplying 13 beds, which will be distributed in different local hospitals in Russia, with a tablet at the head of each bed indicating the source from which this was forthcoming, and expressing the appreciation of the British for their fellow-co-operators in Russia.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

47. THE CO-OPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS.

The last examination for the "Hughes" University Scholarship, tenable at Oriel College, Oxford, was held in May, 1915, when Mr. P. H. Smith, of Edinburgh, was the successful student. Mr. Smith has not yet been able to go into residence at Oxford, having secured permission to hold the scholarship over during the period of the war.

The examination for the "Neale" University Scholarship was due to be held in May of this year, but in view of the National position the United Board passed a resolution deferring the examination for twelve months.

CONNECTION WITH OTHER BODIES.

48.—FOREIGN CONGRESS.

**Report of Inter-Allied Co-operative Conference and Congress
held at Paris, 22nd and 23rd September, 1916.**

MESSRS. J. POLLITT AND A. WHITEHEAD.

Although many doubts were expressed as to the advisability of sending delegates to a conference in Paris during the war, we are of opinion, judging from what took place and the discussion on the questions before the conference, it would have been a serious mistake if no representatives from Great Britain

had been present. The English Co-operative Wholesale Society were not represented, but our Scottish friends sent two delegates. The matters set forth for discussion were of supreme importance, and the British representatives exercised a great influence upon the conclusions arrived at.

Professor Gide, in welcoming the delegates, delivered an eloquent address, traversing many of the points set out in the memoranda of questions to be discussed, declaring himself a true internationalist, denying that the war had killed internationalism, that, whilst war would be decided on the battlefield, we must not continue it in the economic sphere, and said he considered it absurd to say that it was unpatriotic to speak of internationalism.

The first subject was "The Economic Policy of the Allies during and after the War." The memoranda on this subject was a lengthy and well considered one, showing that tariffs between nations were always injurious to the consumer, that as representatives of consumers' organisations we must fight against all protectionist measures which, by including foreign products, would increase the cost of living.

As consumers we must be guided in our purchases, not by persuasion, but by reason, not with a view of inflicting injury upon others, but with a view of obtaining for ourselves and others all possible advantages.

Every nation has its own genius, every land its natural resources, and that we must realise that division of labour, which is but a form of co-operation, is the law of progress for nations as well as for individuals, and that the motto "every man for himself," would be as fatal for one as for the other.

The resolutions submitted were such as we could not accept. They proposed to make the limitation of armaments and the principle of arbitration, a condition of future trading with the Central Powers; and were also in favour of protective duties under certain conditions.

As our Congresses have never expressed an opinion on the first of these proposals, whilst on the second they have often been in favour of a free breakfast table, these were, upon our suggestion, struck out, and a general line of policy agreed upon.

The second subject was "Our Responsibility towards the Co-operative Societies which have Suffered by the War."

Such societies will have a claim upon the State for reparation, but it was pointed out that money will be needed before the Government is in a position to pay for the damage, and it was proposed that societies whose returns had increased during the period of hostilities, should contribute such increased profits to the fund, and also that an appeal should be made to individual co-operators in the Allied countries. From the discussion it appeared that the French and Belgian co-operators were of opinion that British co-operators were very wealthy, and that they should hand over to the continental societies all their surplus capital for our Allies to distribute as they thought best.

To this we could not agree, as in our opinion the International Co-operative Alliance were the proper body to dispense any sums that might

be collected, and we did not think a compulsory subscription would meet with the approval of British co-operators. Finally, it was decided that an appeal should be made in each country, and that two representatives from each subscribing country, together with representatives of the International Alliance, should form a committee to disburse the fund, and that the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies should be asked to grant a substantial loan to supplement the voluntary subscriptions.

The third subject was "The establishing of an International Bureau of Commercial Information, under the auspices of the Alliance, such bureau to form the basis of an International Wholesale Society." This was agreed to.

Taking the conference as a whole, we are of opinion that it will be productive of much good. Our continental friends will have a different view of their British comrades to that they previously held, and they now know that in providing funds it is not sufficient for them to ask and receive only, but that they themselves must take a share in the rebuilding of the movement after the war.

CONGRESS.

Following the conference came the French Co-operative Congress.

We conveyed to the Congress the good wishes of our people, and expressed the hope that one of the results of the war would be the consolidation of the co-operative movement throughout the world.

The business of the Congress, after the President's address, was the report of the year's working of the Wholesale Society and the Union. This did not occupy very much time, then the subjects dealt with at the conference held the previous day were fully discussed, and the decisions arrived at were adopted.

We cannot close this report without expressing our appreciation of the way our friends received us. No trouble seemed too great, and no inconvenience too much for them to overcome, in order to make us comfortable.

Taking advantage of the presence of M. Thomas (Minister of Munitions) at one of the meetings, we asked if it were possible for us to visit the war zone. M. Thomas said we could not visit the British front, but he gave us a permit to the French lines, and furnished us with motor cars and officers to accompany us and explain the field of operations. As this was an opportunity such as we may never have again, and fervently hope so, we desire to thank our French friends, and M. Thomas in particular, for the privilege.

49. THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

(See Appendix V., page 291).

Mr. J. Millington (Midland Section) was appointed as the representative of the Co-operative Union to attend the Trades Union Congress, which was held in Birmingham, last September. He was well received by the Congress. A report of his attendance will be found in the Appendix.

50. THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.

No representative from the Union attended the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers, which is usually held during Easter week.

51. THE WOMEN'S GUILDS.

(See Appendix VI., page 292).

We submit in the Appendix summaries of the reports sent in by the Women's Guilds in England, Scotland, and Ireland; these reports give full details of their work and progress.

Grants of £150 to the Scottish and £30 to the Irish Women's Guilds have been made this year by the Central Board.

52. THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

(See Appendix VII., page 308).

The work of the past year leaves undiminished our confidence in the future of the International Co-operative Alliance. Indeed the recent events in the East not only form a silvery lining to the war clouds which have so long darkened the world, but also set in sharp relief the task of co-operative and democratic organisations when once again they take up their normal activities. For the present, however, it is sufficient if the life and main connections of the Alliance are maintained. In spite of the increased restrictions imposed upon us by the continuance of the war conditions, the membership has been augmented. Twenty-two British societies have been admitted during the year. A glance at the financial statement in the Appendix will show that the finances have been maintained at the standard to which they automatically fell after the outbreak of the war.

In France the movement has to a great extent resumed its ordinary work, including the Congress which met in Paris last September, after a lapse of two years. The movement, however, has added enormously to its activities by undertaking work of urgent national importance. We have not space here to detail its splendid work which was broadly outlined by Mr. Waseige in his interesting address to the Lancaster Congress. In Holland and the Scandinavian countries steady progress is maintained, and according to the information we have received many societies in Belgium are in active operation. Perhaps the most notable events of the year have been connected with the movement in Russia. We have long since turned our eyes towards the East, and looked expectantly for the rising of the sun of democracy, but in that limited sense in which we apply the term of voluntary co-operation.

The vast extent of the Russian Empire, its untold wealth of national resources, the struggles of its people towards freedom, and the immense number of co-operative organisations which have grown up within its

borders during the past decade, gave sure indication of the development which has now become manifest.

Its first practical evidence to the "man in the street" was the establishment in London last year of a branch of the Moscow Narodny Bank, which includes in its membership such a large section of the Russian co-operative movement. A handful of enthusiasts, of the practical type, who have only been in this country from two to four years, made the bold plunge and set up a business in the metropolis which combines banking and exchange of produce on ambitious yet sound business lines. They were undeterred by war conditions, rather did they find circumstances in the great crisis which lent success to their efforts. Their most venturesome projects, judged from the standpoint of English conditions, was the starting of the journal of co-operative information about Russia, which they have published in the English language. Their work is steadily developing in every direction which they have yet attempted, and they are now patiently laying the foundations of international co-operative trading on lines which will have their full opportunity only on the return of peace.

The revolution of the Russian people, which the democracies of the world have hailed with delight as a great stride towards freedom and universal brotherhood, owes much to co-operation.

The weakness of the Russian people for generations past has been its absolute lack of organisation, which, of course, arose not from any lack of capacity on the part of the people, but from the repressive measures of autocracy. Co-operation has largely solved the problem, and while the co-operative societies have shared, to the extent of as much as two-thirds, in the representation on the provisional authorities set up by the Revolutionists in the large towns, they have been practically the sole authority in many country districts and villages.

Such a manifest testimonial to the power of our movement has seldom been produced in any country.

The International Co-operative *Bulletin* has been continued in its truncated form, and in the English and German editions has increased its circulation. The French edition is following the course of the movement in France, and sowing seed which we are confident will bear fruit in the future.

British co-operators should, however, note that the German edition is increasing its subscribers at a more rapid rate than the English edition. This is no doubt due to the propaganda undertaken by both the German and Swiss unions, and though we are far from thinking that the *Bulletin* is pressing its way in those countries by its own intrinsic worth, yet we are bound to admit that the co-operators of those countries are not less exacting than those of this country in their demands for worthy journals.

The difficulties of the censorship in most countries, and the delays in transport with the frequent total loss of the "raw materials" of our journal, make the task of its monthly preparation far from easy.

When we add to these things our home restrictions on the production of periodicals we have reason for satisfaction that the *Bulletin* is maintained even in its limited form. The work of the future is however so important that we appeal to British co-operators to contribute to its success by adding to its circulation.

We have to record, with deep regret, the loss of Mr. Adolp von Elm, a member of the Central Committee of the Alliance, one of the most broad-minded of our international leaders, who passed away in Hamburg in the midst of labours, and while taking a momentary respite from international co-operative work.

Looking again to the future for a moment we record with gratification the fact that the international co-operative leaders of all allied countries are practically of one mind in urging the active prosecution of the work of the Alliance when once we are freed from the trammels of war.

Nothing but hope and confidence in co-operation, national and international, escapes them when considering the future of the world. They are of one mind that nationalism and internationalism in co-operation are interdependent and that by the sedulous cultivation of both we shall lay the foundations of enduring peace.

53. HODGSON PRATT MEMORIAL LIMITED.

The Hodgson Pratt Memorial Limited has been founded to keep alive the memory of Hodgson Pratt, one of the greatest workers of the last century for the principle of Association and Human Brotherhood, as exemplified in the Co-operative, International Peace, and Workmen's Club Movements. He was also an earnest supporter of the Women's Trade Union Movement, and of all forms of education for the workers.

The Co-operative Union is identified with the Memorial by a representative on the committee, and makes an annual grant to its funds.

The committee report that the income for the year was £169. 6s. 11d., made up of £113. 7s. subscriptions and donations, £55. 18s. 11d. interest and dividends, and 1s. by sale of publications. Of the subscriptions and donations £76. 2s. 3d. was contributed by co-operative societies and the Co-operative Union, including £25 each from the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies.

A grant of £50 for equipment and books was made to the New Central Library for the use of students in all parts of the country now established in London under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Mansbridge, as also a grant of £5 for a scholarship at the Universities Summer School; a grant of £5 to the Workers' Educational Association, and other prizes and grants to the value of £11. 6s.

After meeting all expenses, the sum of £72. 8s. 9d. was added to the Memorial Fund which now stands at £1,455.

An earnest appeal is made to co-operative and other workers' organisations to contribute to the fund in order to enable the committee to establish Hodgson Pratt Memorial Scholarship at Ruskin College, and to devise other forms of useful work which will help to keep alive the memory of this great and good man, and at the same time be of service to the workers.

CONGRESS.

54. THE CONGRESS OF 1918.

The Congress of 1918 is due to meet in the Northern Section, but as this will be the fiftieth annual meeting, and therefore the Jubilee Congress, it was felt to be appropriate that the Congress should be held in the town where the headquarters of the movement are situate, and it has been decided, subject to the approval of the Swansea Congress, to hold the Congress of 1918 in Manchester.

The Northern Sectional Board have expressed themselves as being quite agreeable to this arrangement, on condition that the Congress of 1919 should be held in their section.

The North-Western Sectional Board have undertaken, along with the assistance of the local societies, to make all necessary arrangements, and particulars of the accommodation required for the Congress will be submitted to the delegates at Swansea.

OBITUARY.

55. DECEASED CO-OPERATORS.

The following is a list of co-operators who have died since last Congress, notice of whose death appeared in the *Co-operative News*.

1916.

	Page.		Page.
Abrahams, I., Liverpool.....	927	*Bailey, L. J., Birmingham....	730
Ainsworth, W., Darwen.....	518	Bailey, M.....	828
Allen, J. F., Failsworth.....	537	Bainbridge, F., Durham.....	1006
*Amos, P. A., Manchester		Baron, Mrs., Levenshulme....	1234
	759, 785, 982	*Bland, A. E., London.....	831

* Killed in action or died of wounds.

1916.

	Page.		Page.
Blythe, W. A., Sheffield.....	1137	Jones, J. J., Liverpool	731
Briggs, N., Prestwich		*Kitchen, J. P., Liverpool	785
1130, 1131, 1141, 1162, 1168, 1169		*Leah, W. R., Manchester....	985
*Bristow, H., Weymouth.....		Lee, G., Buckfastleigh.....	1085
*Brooks, J. W., Coalville.....	865	*Lomas, J., Atherton.....	759
Brown, W., Kirkham.....	881	McVitie, J., Carlisle.....	1063
Burke, F., Dublin	514	Madsen, H. T., Aarhus.....	1074
*Burrows, D., Merthyr.....	731	*Mellor, G. A., Manchester....	823
*Cameron, K. M., Manchester..	823	*Midgley, L., Manchester.....	1163
*Chadwick, F., Atherton....	759	*Morgan, H., Manchester....	865
Chapman, H., Manchester....	962	*Morrell, A. S., Manchester....	1203
Cheetham, W. R., Eccles....	475	*Owens, W. H., Leigh.....	1085
*Clegg, P., Manchester.....	731	Panther, T., Kettering....	861, 889
Cobbold, F., Maldon.....	808	*Plum, J., Manchester.....	731
Cocksey, J., Whaley Bridge..	732	*Podmore, W. N., Wallsend..	1269
Colledge, E., Lockhurst Lane..	1355	Price, J., Wrexham.....	626
Coston, Mrs., King's Lynn....	722	*Price, —, Manchester.....	759
Davies, Rev. J. Llewelyn,		Rhodes, H., Longton.....	651
London ..	536, 541, 545, 548	Roberts, Mrs., Manchester....	971
*Dearden, G., Manchester..	823, 865	*Shaw, A., Hyde.....	759
*Doxey, H., Whalley.....	785	*Sheard, W., Stockport.....	785
Duddle, H., Leigh.....	1245	*Singleton, A., Manchester....	883
Evans, I., Dudley.....	558	*Snartt, H., London.....	1163
*Farish, S., Manchester.....	962	Soar, G., Leicester.....	759
Fenton, W., Blackpool.....	706	Strong, J., Ashington....	579, 626
Fletcher, J., Kettering.....	536	Sutcliffe, J., Hebden Bridge	
Foster, E., Manchester.....	1245		1275, 1299
*Franklin, H., Manchester....	1033	Taylor, Mrs., Bolton.....	774
*Gorton, A., Manchester.....	823	*Taylor, P., Manchester.....	759
Hadfield, Mrs., Failsworth....	998	*Timberlake, A., Cardiff.....	759
Haigh, J., Halifax.....	626	*Videan, S., Skelton	706
Hetherington, J., Throckley..	1217	*Wallwork, G., Manchester....	865
*Higgins, C., Manchester.....	785	Warburton, T., Manchester....	1197
Holmes, W., Accrington....	427	West, W. G., Nottingham....	953
*Holt, F., Manchester.....	785	Wheatley, S., Thetford.....	1297
Houghton, W., Leigh.....	759	*Whitehead, R., Radcliffe....	823
Houseman, W., Liverpool....	785	*Williams, G., Blaina	808
*Hughes, W. S., London.....	840	Wood, J., London.....	559
Hunwick, H. J., Croydon....	890	Wray, T., Hasland.....	1197
Jones, J., Queensferry.....	626	*Yeadon, A., Rawdon.....	785
Jones, J. E., Whiston.....	1006	Young, A., Haswell.....	1085

* Killed in action or died of wounds.

1917.

Page.	Page.
Ashworth, Mrs. A., Rochdale 59	Hicks, Mrs., Edmonton..... 216
Baker, J. P., Peterborough... 15	*Higby, J. B., Raunds..... 338
Bowker, W. E., Lancaster.... 330	Holden, H., Denholme..... 238
*Bradshaw, F., Leigh..... 141	*Horne, H., Blackpool..... 353
*Brill, C. E., Manchester..... 14	Ledson, Mrs. M. E., Birkenhead 68
Butterfield, N., Bishop A'kland 80, 117	Lyall, R., Glasgow..... 32
*Clark, W. B., Bishop Auckland 330	Pearce, R. S., Southampton.. 331
Frazer, T., Prudhoe-on-Tyne.. 57	Pratt, W., Wollaston..... 261
Glasse, P., Glasgow..... 276	*Roberts, W. A., Sheffield.... 251
*Greaves, P., Failsworth..... 313	Sayer, J., Ely..... 156
*Groom, A. R., Raunds..... 338	Wheelhouse, G., Barnsley.... 352
Harrison, G., Walsall..... 251	

* Killed in action or died of wounds.

The following have appeared in the *Scottish Co-operator* :—

1916.

Page.	Page.
Thomson, William, Perth.... 358	Cowie, James, Kinning Park.. 659
Cunningham, Alex., (Burnt- island 411	Beaton, J., Kinning Park.... 681
Stoddart, D. A., Tranent..... 414	Hamilton, Alex., Shettleston.. 687
Davies, Rev. J. Llewellyn, London 418	Forsyth, Robert, S.C.W.S.... 694
Salmond, John, Carnoustie... 498	Adams, James Hume..... 695
Taylor, John S., Kinning Park 523	Potter, John, Burntisland.... 743
Thomson, W. F., Cowlairs.... 532	Cleland, William, Darvel.... 751
Stevenson, James, Kilbarchan 547	Hood, William, Perth..... 873
Spence, David, Juniper Green 580	Greig, J. F., Avonbank..... 912
Gass, Richard, Vale of Leven.. 611	Urquhart, Mrs., Beith..... 914
	Wyper, William, St. Rollox.. 928

1917.

Page.	Page.
Mullay, David, Leith..... 5	Sunter, J., Paisley Provident.. 89
Norton, William, Kilmarnock 21	Young, T. B., Perth..... 114
Mitchell, Mrs. Geo., Glasgow Eastern 21	Henderson, Mrs., Broxburn.. 117
Clark, James, Kilmarnock.... 39	Gardiner, James, Perth..... 186
Chaddock, Mrs., Kinning Park 75	Glasse, Peter, S.C.W.S..... 197

1961

1. The first part of the report
describes the general situation
of the country in 1961.
It mentions the political
and economic changes
that have taken place
since the end of the
war.

2. The second part of the report
describes the situation in
the different regions of the
country. It mentions the
political and economic
changes that have taken
place in each region.

3. The third part of the report
describes the situation in
the different sectors of the
economy. It mentions the
political and economic
changes that have taken
place in each sector.

4. The fourth part of the report
describes the situation in
the different social sectors.
It mentions the political
and economic changes
that have taken place
in each sector.

1962

1. The first part of the report
describes the general situation
of the country in 1962.
It mentions the political
and economic changes
that have taken place
since the end of the
war.

2. The second part of the report
describes the situation in
the different regions of the
country. It mentions the
political and economic
changes that have taken
place in each region.

APPENDIX.

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I.—FARMING BY SOCIETIES	258
II.—NEW SOCIETIES REGISTERED IN 1916	261
III.—SOCIETIES DISSOLVED OR AMALGAMATED IN 1916	268
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VII.—THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE	308

I. FARMING.

(See Report 6, page 107).

N.B.—Societies holding less than ten acres are not included.

(a) *By Societies.*

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society	Rented				Surplus	De- ficiency
MIDLAND SECTION								
Coalville	Leicester ..	10	15	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ *	£ *
Derby	Derby	52½	..	5129	204	..	*	*
Desborough	Northampton	3000	..	5000	200	..	721	..
Earls Barton	Northampton	43	..	2380	75	..	..	98
Enderby	Leicester ..	4	605	7336	145	889	426	..
Gainsborough	Lincoln ..	..	600	6320	316	650	..	..
Great Wigston ..	Leicester ..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hucknall Torkard	Nottingham	..	465	4623	177	684	807	..
Ilkeston	Derby .....	..	17	..	..	49	5	..
Kirkby-in-Ashfld.	Nottingham	..	100	1000	50	127	..	78
Langley Mill and Aldercar	Nottingham	245	84	10327	432	115	..	415
Leicester	Leicester ..	..	205	2000	100	256	356	..
Lincoln	Lincoln ..	653	147	39753	1277	165	460	..
Long Buckby	Northampton	102	3	5000	200	6	179	..
Long Eaton	Derby	121	263	6400	258	484	968	..
Lowdham	Nottingham	17½	..	1000	..	..	*	*
Mansfield and Sutton	Nottingham	..	..	2400	..	180	..	..
Market Harboro' ..	Leicester ..	100	99	..	..	235	713	..
Nottingham	Nottingham	271	95	18529	607	120	674	..
Nuneaton	Warwick ..	112	..	4000	..	200	..	150
Peterborough	Northampton	307	37	12965	484	87	482	..
Raunds	Northampton	173	243	8800	352	337	737	..
Ripley	Derby	30	..	1781	..	97	*	*
Selston	Nottingham	18	..	776	..	..	37	..
Shepshed	Leicester ..	..	12½	..	..	36	*	*
Tamworth	Stafford ..	82	190	12890	382	209	508	..
Ten Acres	Worcester ..	25	..	2008	79	..	..	149
NORTHERN SECTION								
Ashington Equit.	Northumbld	..	64	250	12	74	218	..
Birtley	Durham ..	..	492	6090	220	692	885	..
Bishop Auckland	Durham ..	..	50	756	37	110	52	..
Chester-le-Street .	Durham ..	..	212	923	51	320	525	..
Consett	Durham ..	200	..	2138	74	134	14	..
Cornforth and Coxhoe	Durham ..	34	..	1769	73	..	5	..
Darlington	Durham ..	..	80	600	25	200	216	..

* No separate account kept.

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society	Rented				Surplus	Deficiency
NORTHERN SECTION—continued.								
Derwent Flr. Mill	Durham ..	..	144	£ 1453	£ ..	£ 220	£ 120	£ ..
Hartlepoons.....	Durham ..	240	..	17279	..	..	523	..
Middlesbrough...	York .....	..	16	88	..	64	*	*
New Brancepeth..	Durham ..	..	16	..	..	18	14	..
Ryhope&Silksw'th	Durham ..	..	40½	375	18	111	40	..
Seaton Delaval ..	Northumbld	..	247	2741	135	356	290	..
Sherburn Hill....	Durham ..	..	..	600	30	140	142	..
Skelton	York .....	..	204	2566	40	360	68	..
West Pelton	Durham ..	25	..	1146	42	..	147	..
West Wylam and Prudhoe	Northumbld	12	42	300	..	130	78	..
NORTH-WESTERN SECTION—								
Barnsley British..	York .....	..	139	..	..	152	*	*
Birkenshaw....	York .....	..	21	190	..	48	145	..
Blackley	Lancaster..	7	16	773	31	56	147	..
Blackpool	Lancaster..	17½	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bolton	Lancaster..	44	..	2500	..	..	*	*
Bradford (City of)	York	18	75	1800	72	97	*	*
Brightside and Carbrook	York	180	27	9611	443	38	243	..
Burnley	Lancaster..	77	5	9000	375	100	..	409
Chesterfield....	Derby .....	..	66	..	..	140	..	..
Dalton-in-Furness	Lancaster..	9½	15	..	..	46	205	..
Failsworth	Lancaster..	24½	0½	3929	77	..	916	..
Farnworth and Kearsley	Lancaster..	16	..	883	45	..	*	*
Huddersfield	York .....	..	20	..	..	23	*	*
Hull	York	412	16	16000	800	64	..	..
Hyde	Chester....	..	15½	..	..	40	..	7
Kirkby-in-Furness	Lancaster..	40	..	3155	109	126	..	..
Leeds	York	81	..	5695	193	..	..	740
Longridge	Lancaster..	..	13	..	..	32	..	..
Masbro'	York	14½	4½	2768	115	20	*	*
Millom.....	Cumberland	33	137	1306	..	197	528	129
Mirfield	York .....	..	14½	..	..	41	*	*
Nelson	Lancaster..	41	..	3601	126	..	88	..
Netherthong ...	York	11	..	985	40	..	..	..
Pendleton	Lancaster..	..	43	500	7	86	137	..
Preston	Lancaster..	13½	..	2244	84	..	..	..
Silsden.....	York	47	66	..	..	..	183	..
Swarthmoor and Ulverston	Lancaster	3	12	400	16	45	*	*
Whitworth	Lancaster	19	..	..	..	..	..	..
Winnington	Chester....	..	11	..	..	25	..	37
Wooldale	York .....	..	13½	31	..	29	27	..
York.....	York .....	..	63	100	5	142	*	*
C.W.S., M'chester.	Lancaster..	2376	..	116503	3249	..	2547	..

* No separate account kept.

Society.	County.	Acreage.		Capital.	Interest.	Rent.	Result of Year.	
		Owned by Society	Rented.				Surplus	De- ficiency
SCOTTISH SECTION								
Bannockburn	Stirling....	30	..	£ 12' 0	£ 48	£ ..	£ 35	£ ..
Dunfermline	Fife .....	..	505	9 03	3.2	1125	3657	..
Greenock (Cen.)..	Renfrew..	175	..	10000	..	300	..	..
St. Cuthbert's....	Edinburgh..	769	..	427 5	1711	1386	2009	..
Tranent	Haddington	216	120	7847	314	535	258	..
Walkerburn.....	Peebles....	..	45	1000	40	85	237	..
SOUTHERN SECTION								
Banbury	Oxford	110	..	7723	273	..	241	..
Berkhamsted	Herts.	13½	..	3315	166	..	..	193
Chipping Norton..	Oxford	160	40	6300	220	35	238	..
Haverhill.....	Suffolk	297	6½	..	..	23	*	*
Ipswich	Suffolk	341	20	16904	680	29	811	..
Sawston	Cambridge..	..	57	300	6	72	..	..
Sheerness Econ...	Kent.....	74	137	7985	319	138	231	99
Sittingbourne....	..	40	..	18 0	75	..	..	27
Trowbridge.....	Wilts. ....	..	60	1600	..	245	..	189
SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION—								
Buckfastleigh....	Devon	4½	9	5 7	28	47	..	..
Plymouth	Devon	2555	80	65000	1320	225	750	..
Radstock	Somerset ..	..	220	1000	43	295	..	..
Torquay	Devon ....	..	45	1352	46	200	102	..
WESTERN SECTION—								
Abersychan and Talywain... ..	Glamorgan.	..	49	..	..	73	85	..
Cwmbach	Glamorgan.	110	63	300	15	108	..	42
Total.....	.....	14286½	7037½	568694	17498	14323	24230	2762

* No separate account kept.

(b) *Farming Societies.*

SOUTHERN SECTION								
Assington	Suffolk ....	..	222	£ 1692	£ 76	£ 111	£ 178	..
WESTERN SECTION								
Coln St. Aldwyns	Gloucester	..	575	3901	..	403	1139	..
Total.....	.....	..	797	4692	76	514	1317	..

II.—LIST OF INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1916.

(See Report 11, page 113.)

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

ABBREVIATIONS.—C means Co-operative; E, Equitable; I, Industrial; L, Land; and P, Provident. "Limited" is understood after every name, and "Society" where A (Association) is not added.

County	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Northumbrlnd.	5999	Radcliffe Workmen's Club and Institute	Radcliffe, Acklington, Northumberland.
Gloucester	6000	Western Mutual Investment	10, John-st., Bristol.
Suffolk	6001	Lothingland Agricultural C.....	Hopton House, Hopton, Gt. Yarmouth.
Dorset	6002	Wimborne and District Agricultural C.	The Store, Poole-rd. Corner, Wimborne.
Dorset	6003	Holt and District C. Farm Implement.	Woodcuts Farm, Gaunts, Wimborne.
Merioneth	6004	Corwen and District Farmers A.	Khasia House, Corwen.
Cambridge	6005	Rock Allotment	97, Cherryinton-rd., Cambridge.
Lancs.....	6006	Nelson Poultry Keepers and Gardeners' Supply A.	33, Regent-st., Nelson.
Hants.	6007	Mid-Hants Egg Depot	Office of the Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society Ltd, Cranworth-road Corner, Winchester.
Yorks.....	6008	South Kirkby Village Club and Institute.	Lydgate, South Kirkby, Wakefield.
Somerset	6009	Marston Magna and District Poultry A.	Higher Farm, Chilton Cantels, Mudford, Yeovil.
Carnarvon ...	6010	Carnarvon C.	8, Hill-st, Carnarvon.
Carmarthen ..	6011	Pontardulais and District Farmers' A.	Market Hall, Hendy, Pontardulais, Glam.
Northumbrlnd.	6012	Automatic Dairy	Mill House, Bardon Mill, Northumberland.
London	6013	Hampshire House Workshops....	Hampshire House, Hog-lane, Hammer-smith, W.
Suffolk	6014	Laxfield Small Holders' Club ..	Jasmine House, Laxfield, Framlingham, Suffolk.
Durham	6015	Bishop Auckland and District Smallholders.	6, Station View, Bishop Auckland.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Somerset	6016	Castle Cary Bruton & Wincanton Agricultural C.	The House, The Triangle, Castle Cary, Somerset.
Derby	6017	Fenny Bentley C. Egg & Poultry	Bentley Cottage, Ashbourne.
Essex	6018	South West Ham & District Horticultural.	18, Redriffe-road, Plaistow, E.
Somerset	6019	Dunster Williton & District C.	The Depôt, Long-st., Williton, Taunton.
Bucks.	6020	Beaconsfield & District Produce.	Reynolds-road, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
Somerset	6021	Wiveliscombe & District Poultry Depôt.	Castle Wiveliscombe, Somerset.
Carnarvon	6022	Ysbytyifan Farmers' A.	Penybont, Ysbytyifan, Bettws-y-Coed, Carnarvonshire.
Denbigh	6023	Eglwysbach Farmers' A.	New Mill, Eglwysbach, Talycain, Denbighshire.
Yorks.	6024	Carlin How Smallholders and Allotments.	37, Coronation-street, Carlin How, Yorks.
London	6025	Chicory Planters' (British) A.	32, Walbrook, E.C.
Lancs.	6026	Blackpool & Fylde Farmers' Pure Milk Supply A.	104, Gorton-street, Blackpool.
Lancs.	6027	Urmston & District Allotments A.	34, Lime-av., Urmston, Manchester.
Carnarvon	6028	Siabod C.	Blaenddol, Dolwyddelan, Carnarvonshire.
Denbigh	6029	Denbigh and Ruthin Farmers' A.	Pentre Farm, Llanrhaeadr, Denbigh.
Somerset	6030	Backwell Nailsea and District Agricultural.	Green Bay Tree, West Town, Bristol.
Durham	6031	Belle Vue Club.	Belle Vue Bank, Low Fell, Gateshead.
Surrey	6032	Merstham Allotments A.	4, Bletchingley-road, South Merstham, Merstham, Redhill.
Wilts.	6033	Salisbury and Wilts Women's C Gardening.	20, The Close, Salisbury.
Surrey	6034	Wimbledon Home Produce	51, Broadway, Wimbledon, S.W.
Denbigh	6035	Llangerniew C.	Post Office, Llangerniew, Abergelle, Denbigh.
Denbigh	6036	Dyffryn Ial Agricultural C.	Pantygwlanod Llanarmon-yn-Yale, Mold.
London	†6037	Agricultural Produce Supplies ...	Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill-street, Westminster, S.W.
Staffs.	6038	Harborne Tenants' Investment ..	Moorpool, Harborne, Birmingham.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
London	6039	Southwood Court	6, Bloomsbury-sq., W.C.
Lincs.	6040	Holton, Kelsey and District Farmers' C.	Moot Hall, Holton-le-Moor, Lincoln.
Wilts	6041	Atworth and District Agricultural C.	Hulberts, Atworth, Melksham.
London	6042	Officers' Families' Housing.....	116, Judd-st., W.C.
Lancs.	6043	Wavertree Allotments A.	1, Brierfield - road, Wavertree, Liverpool.
Lancs... ..	6044	Independent Labour Party (Urmston, Flixton, and Davyhulme Branch).	Morris Hall, Atkinson-rd., Urmston, Manchester.
Derby	6045	Stretton and Ashover District Farmers' Trading A.	Stubben Edge, Ashover, Chesterfield.
Durham	6046	Windy Nook and Carr Hill Working Men's Club and Institute.	Stone-street, Windy Nook, Gateshead.
Somerset . .	*6047	West Coker and District Agricultural C.	Barrows Farm, East Chinnock, Yeovil.
Bucks.....	6048	Askett Agricultural C.	Ichnield Bungalow, Princes Risboro', Bucks.
Northampton .	6049	Gretton Smallholders	Hatton Arms Club-room, Gretton, Kettering.
Montgomery ..	6050	Meehan Farmers' A.....	Brongain, Llanfchain, Montgomery.
Cornwall.	6051	St. Austell and District C. Egg and Poultry.	Treewoon, St Austell
Hants.	6052	Hayling Island Farmers' C.	3, Coastguard cottag., Hayling Island, Havant.
Lancs.....	6053	Stubshaw Cross C.	398, Bolton - road, Stubshaw Cross, Newton-le-Willows
London	6054	British C. Gardeners	1, Ulysses-road, Fortune Green, Kilburn, N.W.
Durham	6055	Fishburn and District Workmen's Social Club and Institute	Manor House-terrace, Fishburn, Ferryh'l.
Durham	6056	South Moor Social Workmen's Club.	Club House, Front-st., South Moor, Stanley, co. Durham.
Essex	6057	Ramsden Bellhouse Produce.....	Mayeroft, Bellhouse. Billericay, Essex.
Warwick.....	6058	Tobacco Trading A.....	17, Herford-street, Coventry.
London	6059	Model Market Growing A.	24, Beaford - row, W.C.
Middlesex	6060	Tottenham Allotments A	Town Hall, Tottenham, N.
Cornwall.	6061	St. Columb and District Egg and Poultry C.	Dinas-vi., St. Columb, Cornwall

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Durham	6062	Seaham Harbour and District Social Club	28 & 29, North-terr'oe, Seaham Harbour, co. Durham.
London	6063	Norbury Laundries	2, Walbrook, Mansion House, E.C.
Northampton .	6064	Wellingborough and District Poultry Keepers' A.	20, College-st., Wellingborough.
Chester	6065	Mid-Cheshire Farmers' Tractor Implements C.	1, Wotton-st., Northwich.
London	6066	Women's C. Restaurant	34, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.
Sussex	6067	Worthing Toy Factory	Beach House, Worthing.
Derby	6068	Chesterfield United Club and Institute.	Hambidges-buildings, Hepper-st., Chesterfield.
Gloucester	6069	Bedminton Poultry C.	Stonelea, Acton Turville, Chippenham.
Middlesex	6070	Mill Hill Small Holdings	The Nook, Daws-lane, Mill Hill, N.W.
Stafford	6071	Longton Working Men's Unionist Club.	43, Market-st., Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.
Lincoln	6072	Stamford & District Egg & Poultry	52, High-st., Stamford.
Suffolk	6073	Eastern Counties Herb Growers C.	Hasketon Rise, Woodbridge.
Northumbrlnd.	6074	Ashington High Market Allotments.	Post-office, Ashington, Northumberland
London	6075	Sailors and Soldiers' (Khaki) Window and General Cleaning	66, Goodge-st., Tottenham Court-rd, W.
Kent	6076	Crayford Works C.	New Estate, Crayford, Dartford.
Surrey	6077	Hart Allotment	74, Castle-st., Farnham
Hants	6078	Isle of Wight Farmers' Trading..	Parade Cottage, Cowes
Middlesex ..	6079	Alexandra Park Allotments A....	30, Outram-rd., Alexandra Park, Wood Green N.
Staffs.	6080	Butterton Smallholders	Black Lion Inn, Butterton, Leek.
Yorks.	6081	Brandsby Implement	Brandsby, Easingwold, Yorks.
Derby	6082	Critch and District Agricultural C	Roselea, Ambergate, Derby.
Yorks.	6083	Mill Lane Allotment Holders' A.	70, Albert-st. South Kirkby, Wakefield.
Westmorland .	6084	Underley Poultry Keepers' Trading	Reading Room, Keastwick, Kirkby Lonsdale.
Yorks.	6085	Norton C. Cutlery	51 Athol-rd., Sheffield.
Northumbrlnd.	6086	Northumberland C. Bakeries	Front-st., Bedlington, Northumberland.
Northampton .	6087	Peterborough & District Poultry	11, Post Office Yard, Peterborough.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i>			
Berks	6088	Guild of Silence C.....	The Farm House, near Newbury.
Durham	6089	Fir Tree Allotment	4, Plantation-terrace, Fir Tree, Harperley Station, co. Dur- ham.
Sussex	6090	Buxted Agricultural	Onstead Farm, High Hurstwood, Uck- field.
Kent	6091	West Wickham Allotment.....	Parish Hall, West Wickham, Kent.
Glamorgan ...	6092	Llynvi Valley Allotments and Small Holdings A.	5, Garnwen-road, Nanttyfyllon, Bridg- end.
Middlesex	6093	Bushy Park Poultry	St. Giles, Anlaby-rd., Teddington.
Staffs.	6094	Wolstanton Workmen's Club and Institute.	West-view, Dimsdale, Wolstanton, Staffs.
Wilts.	6095	Alderbury and District Trading ..	Avonturn, Alderbury, Salisbury.
Gloucester	6096	Cheltenham and District Market Gardeners and Fruit Growers' C. A.	Hope Cottage, Arle, Cheltenham.
Monmouth	6037	Llanfair Caereinion Electric.....	The Institute, Llan- fair, Caereinion, Welshpool.

II.—SCOTLAND.

Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Shieldburn and Letterfowne Supply A.	47a, East Church-street, Buckie, Banffshire.
Muir of Fyvie Agricultural C.	Milnbre, Fyvie, Aberdeen.
Vale of Echt Agricultural C.	Westmains, Echt, Aberdeen.
Acharn and District Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, Acharn, Perth.
Middlebank and District Agricultural C.	Middlebank, Errol, Perth.
Tarvis Agricultural C.	Watchmakers' village, Tarvis, Aberdeen.
Knock Agricultural C.	Foulwood, Grange Keith, Banff.
Keithhall Agricultural C.	Bankhead, Kinnuck, Inverarie, Aberdeen.
Dolphinton Agricultural C.	Bridge-end, Dolphinton, Lanark.
Pentland Mains Agricultural C.	Pentland Mains, Loanhead, Mid- lothian.
Cumnock District Dairy A.	Royal Bank-bdgs., Cumnock, Ayr.
Cornhill Agricultural C.	Midtown, Cornhill, Banffshire.
Sauchen Agricultural C.	Castle Fraser, Kemnay, Aberdeen

Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Mountblair District Agricultural C.	Brownside Farm, Mountblair, Aberdeen
Benachie Agricultural C.	Premney-village, Inch, Aberdeen.
Scarfskerry Agricultural C.	Scarfskerry, by Thurso, Caithness.
Westmuir Agricultural C.	Westmuir, Kirriemuir, Forfar.
N. therlorn Agricultural C.	Clachan-Siel, Argyll.
Westerton Garden Suburb C.	10, Maxwell-avenue, Westerton Garden Sub., by Drumchapel.
Ardclach Agricultural C.	Campbell's - schoolhouse, Ardclach, Nairn.
Rafford Agricultural C.	Todholes, Rafford, Forres, Moray.
Rothiemay Agricultural C.	Public-school, Milton, Rothiemay, Banff.
Latheronwheel Agricultural C.	Buldoo, Latheronwheel, Caithness.
Keiss Agricultural C.	Keiss by Wick, Caithness.
Nyabster Agricultural C.	Keiss by Wick, Caithness.
Edderton Agricultural C.	Rhibreck, Edderton, Ross.
Cromdale Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, Cromdale, Moray.
Pluscarden Agricultural C.	Schoolhouse, Pluscarden, Elgin.
Chapel of Garioch Agricultural C.	Blairbowie, Pitcaple, Aberdeen.
Auchleuchries Agricultural C.	Auchleuchries, Ellon, Aberdeen.
Poltalloch Farming.	Poltalloch Estate Office, Kilmartin, Argyll.
Kilbirnie and District Farmers' A.	South Stoneyholm Farm, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire
Monikie Agricultural Farmers' C.	Monikie Hall, Monikie, Forfar.
Scottish Central Insurance.	1, Rutland-sq., Edinburgh.

III.—IRELAND.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Kerry	1238	Castleisland C. Agricultural ..	Castleisland.
Tyrone	1239	Altmore C. Agricultural	Cappagh, Pomeroy.
Kerry	1240	Killorglin Limeburning ...	Killorglin.
Mayo	1241	Croaghpatrick C. Agricultural...	Murrisk.
Roscommon ..	1242	Cloonyquin C. Agricultural ...	Cloonyquin.
Kerry	1243	Tralee C.	4, The Square, Tralee.
Roscommon ..	1244	Kilteevan C. Agricultural ..	Kilteevan.
Clare	1245	Lissycasey C. Agricultural.	Lissycasey, Ennis.
Tyrone	124	Sixmilecross C. Agricultural	Sixmilecross.
Kilkenny	1247	Ballyragget C. Creamery	Ballyragget.
Galway	1248	Aughrim C. Agricultural	Aughrim.
Kerry	1249	Dingle C. Agr cultural	Dingle.
Tipperary. ..	1250	Tipperary Farmers' Milling ...	Tipperary.
Cork	1252	Banteer C. Creamery ...	Banteer.
Kilkenny	1253	Tullaroan C. Creamery	Tullaroan, Freshford.
Tyrone	12 4	Carmen C. Agricultural	Carrikkmore.
Armagh	1255	County Armagh C. Agricultural ..	Richhill.
Cork	1256	Boherbue Implement C.	Boherbue, Banteer.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
IRELAND— <i>con.</i>			
Tyrone	1257	Maydown C. Agricultural	Benburb.
Cork	1258	Aghabullogue C. Creamery	Aghabullogue, Coachford.
Down	1259	Killyleagh C. Agricultural ..	Killyleagh.
Roscommon ..	1260	Athleague Milling C.....	Athleague.
Donegal	1261	Ardara Milling	Ardara.
Limerick ...	1262	Foynes C.	Store, Foynes.
Roscommon ..	1263	Oran C. Agricultural	Oran.
Tipperary ...	1264	Clanwilliam C.	Stores, Alleen, Dundrum.
Tyrone	1265	Drumreany C.	Stores, Main-street, Castlecaulfield.
Sligo	1266	Drumcliffe C. Milling	Miltown, Drumcliffe.
Westmeath ...	1267	Fore and Collinstown C. Agricultural.	Fore, Castlepollard.
Kilkenny	1268	Mullenbeg C. Agricultural.....	The Creamery, Mullenbeg, Piltown.
Dublin	1269	The Electric Lamp Users' C. ..	11 and 12, Merrion-row, Dublin
Kilkenny	1270	Urlingford C. Motor..	Rathbeg, Urlingford.
Cavan	1271	Drummany C. Agricultural.....	Drummany, Killesandra.
Donegal	1272	Meentiagh C. Agricultural.	Drumfries Clonmany.
Galway	1273	Abbeygormican C. Agricultural ..	Mullagh, Kiltormer.
Tipperary	1274	Annervale Farmers' C.....	Ballycullen, Mullinahone.
Clare	1276	Clouna C. Agricultural	Clouna North, Ennistymon.
Dublin	1277	Dublin Food Supply	119, Saint Stephen's Green, Dublin.
Kildare	1278	Calverstown C. Agricultural	Ballyshannon. Calverstown, Kilcullen.
Roscommon ..	1279	Rooskey and Kilglass C. Agricultural.	Rooskey, Dromod.
Armagh	1280	Killeavy C. Agricultural	Heath Hall, Newry.
Kildare	1281	Naas C. Agricultural.....	Naas
Roscommon ..	1282	Lisadorn C. Agricultural	Lisadorn, Elphin.
Tyrone	1283	Dungannon and District C.....	Stores, Scotch-street, Dungannon.
Cork	1284	Castlelyons C. Creamery	Castlelyons, Fermoy.
Kildare	1285	Rathangan C. Agricultural	Rathangan.

III.—LIST OF INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER DURING 1916.

(See Report 12, page 114.)

I.—ENGLAND AND WALES.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal: Document Registered.
Lancs.....	303	Rochdale C. Manufacturing, Mitchell Hey Mills, Rochdale.	Reg. Cancelled converted to Co. Ltd.
Devon.	1132	Barnstaple C., 11, Joy-street, Barnstaple	Final winding up notice
Oxford	1558	Steeple Aston C., Society's Store, South-st. Steeple Aston, Oxford.	Amalgamated with 1524, Oxford.
Yorks.....	1769	Settrington & District C., Society's Office, Settrington, Malton.	Amalgamated with 3755, Yorks.
Northumbrlnd.	1801	Hexham & Acomb I.C., Society's Store, Battle Hill, Hexham.	Amalgamated with 1477, Northumberland.
Lancs.....	2089	White Coppice C., The Wood, White Coppice, Angley, Chorley.	Dissolved by instrument, 9, £66, £109.
Notts.	2355	Sir John Borlace Warren Loan, 1-2, Derby-road, Nottingham.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Notts.	2384	New Town Inn Loan, 177, Commercial-road, Bulwell, Nottingham.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Northumbrlnd.	2393	Pioneer Fishing, 7, Washington-terrace, North Shields.	Dissolved by instrument, 64, £3,046, £1,869
Warwick.....	2429	Napton C., Co-operative Society Stores, Napton Rugby.	Amalgamated with 304, Warwick.
Bedford	2540	Sharnbrook C., The Stores, High-street, Sharnbrook, Bedford.	Transferred engagements to 3891, Bedfordshire.
Monmouth....	2728	Rumney Allotment Garden C., Board School Rumney, Cardiff.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No funds.
Surrey.....	2776	Epsom C., Co-operative Stores, East street, Epsom.	Transferred engagements 2646, Surrey.
Surrey.....	3074	Leatherhead and District C., Co-operative Stores, North-street, Leatherhead.	Transferred engagements 2959, Surrey.
Glamorgan....	3216	Treboeth I C., Society's Stores, Llanyfelach-road, Treboeth, Swansea.	Amalgamated with 3737, Glamorgan.
London	3346	Finsbury Park C., People's Bank, 48a, Durham-rd., Holloway N.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Yorks.....	3415	Salterforth C I., Park View-ter., Salterforth, Colne.	Amalgamated with 1367 Lancs.
London	3418	Dalston Progressive Working Men's Club and Institute, Folk's Hall, 105, Dalston-lane, N.E.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES—con.			
Yorks.	3541	Hull General Builders, 30, Lockwood-street Hull.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Lincs.	3722	Grantham People's Supply C. 1-3, Chapel-street, Grantham.	Final winding up notice
Derby	3723	Long Eaton Sawley Road L., Broad-street, Long Eaton, Nottingham	Reg. Cancelled by request. Members and funds nil
Lancs.	3750	Low Moor I. and P., 12, Union-street, Low Moor, Clitheroe.	Amalgamated with 404, Lancs.
Lincoln	3774	Newark Dairy, The Dairy, Long Bennington, Grantham.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Notts.	3779	Stapleford Freehold L., Gladwyn-house, Stapleford, Nottingham.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Notts.	3800	Brookhill Stapleford Freehold L., Gladwyn-house, Stapleford, Nottingham.	Reg. Cancelled for default
Durham.	3814	Sunderland Amalgamated Engineers' Club and Institute, 1, Livingstone-road, Garrison Field, Sunderland.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Monmouth ..	3932	Phoenix I and P., 19 and 20, Queen-street, Nantyglo, Mon.	Final winding up notice.
Glamorgan. ..	3998	Gwauncaegurwen and District C., Gwauncaegurwen, Glamorgan.	Final winding up notice.
Stafford	4006	Beckett Working Men's Club and Institute, Beckett-st., Bils on.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Durham.	4007	Hartlepool Fishermen's Ferry Boat, 1, Croft-st., Hartlepool	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Yorks.	4056	Nidderdale Dairy, 6 Commercial-street, Harrogate.	Reg. Cancelled. Converted to Co. Ltd.
Devon.	4082	Ottery St Mary and District C., Stores, Ottery St Mary, Devon.	Transferred engagements 2423, Devon.
Yorks.	4238	Hull Brush Makers, 20, Marlboro'-terrace, Beverley-road, Hull.	Final winding up notice.
Devon.	4273	Chudleigh and District C., Stores, Town Hall-sq., Chudleigh, Devon.	Final winding up notice.
London	4326	World Patentees A., 95, Wool Exchange, Colman-street, E.C.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Glamorgan..	4477	Aberavon and District, 18 Cwmavon, Aberavon, Port Talbot.	Final winding up notice.
London	4511	C. Granite Quarries, Room 20, 124, Chancery Lane, W.C.	Final winding up notice.
Bucks.	4515	Marlow Agricultural C. Rockwell End Farm, Hambleton, Henley-on-Thames.	Dissolved by instrument, 21, £69, £81.
Warwick	4518	Water, Orton and District C. Dairy, Justices Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Church Hill, Coleshill, Birmingham	Dissolved by instrument, 41, £16, £120.
London	4570	Coal Consumers' Pioneer, Room 20, 124, Chancery Lane W.C.	Final winding up notice.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES—con.			
London	4592	Aberdaron C. Housing. Room 20, 124, Chancery Lane, W.C.	Final winding up notice.
Staffs.	4599	Cheadle (Staffs) I. C., 8, High-st., Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent.	Amalgamated with 287, Staffs.
Hants.	4645	Alton and District C., 84, High-street, Alton.	Transferred engagements 4551, Surrey.
London	4673	Little Waltham C. Allotments and Small Holdings, 12, Alma-road, Old Ford-road, Victoria Park, E.	Dissolved by instrument, 25, nil, £11.
Huntingdon ..	4740	Farcet Small Holdings and Allotments A., Goose Hall, Farcet, Peterborough.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Members and funds nil.
Surrey.....	4773	Camberley and District I.C., Obelisk-street, Camberley.	Transferred engagements 4159, Hants.
Yorks... ..	4805	Longest Playing Phone, 149, Paley-road, Bradford.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London	4829	Dulwich Post, Bassano-house, Lordship-lane, S.E.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Members and funds nil.
Yorks.....	4871	Kilham & District Small Holders, Eastgate-house, Kilham, Yorks.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Monmouth....	4905	Trelleck and District L., Willow-mead, Trelleck, Monmouth.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
London	4919	United Enterprise, 68, Basinghall-street, E.C.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Yorks... ..	4928	Hornsea & District Small Holders, 1, Burton-road, Hornsea, Hull.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Norfolk	4941	Wayford Tenants, Estate Office, Wayford, Stalham, Norwich.	Final winding up notice.
Berks.	4953	Uffingham Small Holders, residence of Secretary, Chapel-lane, Uffington, Faringdon.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Inability to acquire land.
Berks.	4978	Shrivenham and District Small Holdings A., Holkham-house, Swindon-rd, Shrivenham, Berks.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Inability to acquire land.
Berks... ..	4979	Stanford and Charner Small Holdings, Chapel-st., Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Members and funds nil.
Cambridge	5006	Witcham Small Holders A., house of Mr. Saml. Papworth, High-street, Witcham, Ely.	Dissolved by instrument, 29, £3, £3.
Bedford	5019	Woburn Sands and District Egg and Poultry, Cranfield, Woburn Sands, Bedford.	Dissolved by instrument, 25, £53, £30.
Stafford	5054	Cobridge Working Men's Club and Institute, 275, Waterloo-road, Cobridge Burslem, Staffs.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Somerset	5081	Bath C. Allotments, 25, Beckhampton-road, Bath.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Essex	5119	Boxted Small Holding C, Priory Buildings, Boxted, Colchester.	Dissolved by instrument, 29, £170, £312.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES - con.			
Cambridge	5135	Cottenham Small Holders, High-street, Cottenham, Cambridge.	Dissolved by instrument, 54, £7, £7.
Hants.	5141	Bramshaw and District C., Frog-ham, Fordingbridge, Salisbury	Transferred engagements 5100, Hants.
Lancs.	5146	Royton and District Farmers' Supply A., farmhouse Gerrard H-y Farm, Buersil Head, Rochdale.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Gloucester	5161	Cotswold Farmers' A., the Depot, Station-road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucester.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Lancs.	5182	Gorton Labour L., I L.P. Institute, Hyde-road, Gorton, Manchester.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Liabilities and assets taken over by British Steel Smelters' Association Ltd.
London	5195	Liberal Opinion, 40 Devonshire-chambers, Bishopsgate, E.C.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Kent	5200	High Halstow (Kent) C. Trading. Mount Stuart, High Halstow, Rochester	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Northumbrlnd.	5206	Choppington & District Central Social Club, Front-street, Scotland Gate, Choppington, Northumberland.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
London	5218	Oxford International Trading Benefit, 86, Berwick-street, Golden Square, W.	Dissolved under S. 242 (4) and (5) Companies' Consolidation Act, 1908.
Camba.	5222	Gamlingay & District Egg and Poultry, Church-street, Gamlingay, Sandy.	Dissolved by instrument 10, £321 nil.
Wilts.	5230	Land & Home League Co-operators, The Rectory, Tockenham, Swindon	Dissolved by instrument 35, £5, £5.
Hants.	5234	Beaulieu & District Agricultural C., Manor Office, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants.	Amalgamated with 5599, Hants
Glam.	5256	Llanilterne Agricultural C., Dany-Craig, Chapel Llanilterne, Cardiff.	Reg. Cancelled by request, members and funds nil.
Oxford....	5269	Cowley Poor Allotments A., 28, George-street, Pile-road, Cowley, Oxford	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London	5272	British Garden Estates A., Carlton house, 11, Regent-street, W.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Durham	5308	Collingwood Working Men's Social and Recreation Club and Institute, Collingwood Buildings, Collingwood-street, Felling, co. Durham.	Dissolved under S. 242 (4 and 5) Companies' Consolidation Act, 1908.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES - <i>con.</i>			
Derby	5318	Little Eaton C. Cottage Gardeners' A., The Bungalow, Station-road, Little Eaton Derby.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Wilts	5343	Whiteparish and District Agricultural Trading, in use of Mr. Geo Collins, The-street, Whiteparish, Salisbury.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Northumbria ..	5370	United Service Club (Newcastle-upon-Tyne District), 3, Market-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	Final winding up notice.
Yorks....	5417	York City Brass Band Club and Institute, Merchantgate, York.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London	5465	National Estates Bank, room 669 20, Bucklersbury, Cheapside, E.C.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London ...	5470	Members' Petrol Supply, 16, St. Helen's Place, E.C.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
London	5479	Leysdown Cottage, 35, Albermarle-street, Piccadilly, W.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Glamorgan...	5500	Welsh Garden Villages Investment, Gresham-chambers, Ringsway, Cardiff.	Final winding up notice.
London	5502	Smallholders & Poultry Keepers' C, 135, Stroud-green-road, N.	Final winding up notice.
Yorks.....	5506	Bradford Smallholders, 33, Dallam-street, Undercliffe, Bradford.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
London	5512	Yacht Owners' Union, Putney Bridge Ironworks, Fulham S.W.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Cambridge ..	5527	Linton Unionist Club, Club-Premises, Linton, Cambridge.	Dissolved by instrument, 55, nil, £445.
Yorks.....	5542	Greasbrough Smallholders, 47, Scrooby-street, Greasbrough, Rotherham.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Yorks.....	5561	Doncaster Excelsior Working Men's Club and Institute, 8, Upper Oxford-st., Doncaster.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Society registered as 5136 York W. (F.S. Act).
Berks.....	5600	Maidenhead and District Smallholders' A., 100, Queen-street, Maidenhead.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London	5603	C. Supplies, 34, Wilson-street, Finsbury, E.C.	Final winding up notice.
Norfolk.....	5613	Brookville Smallholders, Club House Brookville, Stoke Ferry, Norfolk.	Dissolved by instrument, 17 £10, £4.
Glamorgan ...	5631	Fernhill Garden Village, Merthyr House, Docks, Cardiff.	Dissolved by instrument, 8, £80, £80.
Monmouth....	5645	Newport Garden Village, 30, High-street, Newport, Mon.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
London	5653	Sparsholt (Hants) Co-partnership Housing, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Members and funds nil.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
ENGLAND AND WALES—con.			
London	5665	Paddington Conservative Club, 41 and 43, Woodfield-road, Paddington, W.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Oxford.....	5682	Kidlington Smallholders, Kidlington, Oxford.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Lincoln	5700	Columbarium C. Egg & Poultry, The Cringle, South Stoke, Grantham.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Oxford	5716	Bicester Smallholders, Primrose Cottage, Bucknell-rd., Bicester.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Oxford	5745	Islip Smallholders, Rectory-sq., Islip, Oxford.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Durham.....	5766	Birtley Smallholders, 26, North-terrace, Birtley, co. Durham.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
umbrlnd.	5795	National Amalgamated Union of Labour (Newcastle-on-Tyne and District) Club and Institute, 79a, Percy-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Reg. Cancelled as ceased to exist.
Kent.....	5798	National C. Rabbit Breeding, Belveder-road, Bexley Heath, Kent.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
London	5805	Investors' C., 37, Albemarle-st., Piccadilly, W.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Monmouth....	5813	Waulwyd Garden Village Co-partnership Housing, Imperial Chambers, Bethcar - street, Ebbw Vale, Monmouth	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Kent	5817	Dartford and District Smallholders, 68, High-st., Dartford.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Lack of local support.
London	5828	London Trades and Labour Hall C., 9, Great Newport-st., W.C.	Reg. Cancelled for default.
Dorset.....	5831	West Moors and District Smallholders' A., Moorside, Moorlands-road, West Moors, Wimborne.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Members and funds nil.
Westmorland..	5836	Westmorland Fruit Growers' A., 2, Aikrigg-villas, Kendal	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Durham	5893	Charles Street Working Men's Social Club, 2, Gladstone-st., Hebburn, co. Durham.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Members and funds nil
Devon.....	5919	Bere Ferrers Fruit Growers' A. Prilleigh, Bere Alston, Devon	Amalgamated with 5311 Cornwall.
London	5924	Belgian (1914) Organisation, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tottenham-street, Westminster. S.W.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.
Derby	5969	Alsop-en-le-Dale Dairy A., The New Inn Farm, Tissington, Ashbourne.	Reg. Cancelled by request. No members or funds.

County.	No.	Name and Registered Office of Society.	Cause of Removal. Document Registered.
Somerset	6047	ENGLAND AND WALES— <i>con.</i> West Coker and District Agricultural C., Barrows Farm, East Chinnock, Yeovil.	Reg. Cancelled by request. Lack of support.

II.—SCOTLAND.

AMALGAMATIONS.

Stenhousemuir Baking Society Limited, registered office, North-road, Stenhousemuir, amalgamated with Stenhousemuir Co-operative Society Limited.

TRANSFER OF ENGAGEMENTS.

Juniper Green Co-operative Society Limited, registered office, Lanark-road, Juniper Green, transferred to St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Association Limited.

INSTRUMENTS OF DISSOLUTION.

Larkhall Property Investment, 9, Croft Place, Larkhall.
Mearns Beekeepers' Society Limited, Schoolhouse, Fordoun, Kincardine.

FINAL NOTICE OF WINDING UP.

Fyvie Co-operative Dairy Society Limited, Fyvie, Aberdeen.
Kincardineshire Agricultural Co-operative Society Limited, 9, High-street, Laurencekirk, Kincardine.
Durriss Agricultural Co-operative Society, Kirkton Mills, Durriss, Drumoak, Kincardine.

REGISTRY CANCELLED BY REGISTRAR.

Heanish Co-operative Society Limited, Baugh, Tiree, Argyll.
Greenock Tenants' Co-Partnership Society Limited, 28, Cathcart-street, Greenock, Renfrew.
Glasgow Orchestral Musicians Club Limited, 266, Renfrew-street, Glasgow.
City and Suburban Association Club Limited, 127, West Nile-street, Glasgow.

III.—IRELAND.

ONE SOCIETY WAS DISSOLVED BY INSTRUMENT:—

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
Kerry	964	Prior C. Agricultural	Ballinskelligs, Cahirciveen.

THE REGISTRY OF TWO SOCIETIES WAS CANCELLED BY REQUEST:—

Armagh	797	Glassdrummond C. Agricultural .	Glassdrummond.
Carlow	883	North Carlow C. Poultry	Rathvilly.

THE REGISTRY OF FIVE SOCIETIES WAS CANCELLED FOR FAILURE AFTER
NOTICE TO SUBMIT ANNUAL RETURNS FOR YEAR 1914 :—

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
IRELAND—con.			
Down	897	Kilmegan C. Agricultural	Annshoro.
Leitrim	584	Tarmon C. Agricultural and Dairy.	Tarmon, Spencer Harbour, Carrick-on-Shannon.
Londonderry ..	736	Macosquin & Aghadowey C. Flax.	Macosquin, Coleraine.
Mayo	986	Clareisland C. Agricultural	Clareisland, Westport
W. Meath	862	Fore & Collinstown C. Agricultural.	Fore, Castlepollard.

THE REGISTRY OF FIFTY SOCIETIES WAS CANCELLED AS CEASED :—

Wexford	971	Blackwater C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Blackwater, Ennis-corthy.
Wexford	1005	Rathgarogue C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Rathgarogue.
Wexford	1006	Ballyduff C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ballyduff.
Wexford	1007	Clonroche C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Clonroche.
Wexford	1008	Glenbrien C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Glenbrien, Ennis-corthy.
Wexford	1009	Ballycarney and Tombrack C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ballycarney, Ferns.
Wexford	1011	Davidstown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Davidstown, Ennis-corthy.
Wexford	1012	Oulart C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers	Oulart, Gorey.
Wexford	1014	Adamstown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Adamstown.
Wexford	1015	Bree C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Bree, Macmine.
Wexford	1016	Newtownbarry C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Newtownbarry.
Wexford	102	Oylegate C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Oylegate, Ennis-corthy.
Wexford	1022	Pallas C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Pallas.
Wexford	1023	Templendigan and Rathnure C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Templendigan.
Wexford	1026	Clonegal C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Clonegal, Ferns.
Wexford	1027	Kildavin C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Kildavin, Ferns.
Wexford	1029	Ballyroebuck C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ballyroebuck, Ferns.
Wexford	1030	Booavogue C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Booavogue, Ferns.
Wexford	1031	Ballindaggin C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ballindaggin, Ennis-corthy.

County	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
IRELAND— <i>con.</i>			
Wexford	1034	Coolgarr w C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Coolgarrow.
Wexford	1035	Murrinctown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Murrinctown.
Wexford	1048	Screen C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Screen.
Wexford	1051	Newbawn C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Newbawn.
Wexford	1052	Ballaghkeen C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ballaghkeen.
Wexford	1054	Clologue C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Clologue.
Wexford	1057	Kilmuckridge C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Kilmuckridge, Gorey.
Wexford	1058	Glynn C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Glynn.
Wexford	1059	Barntown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Barntown.
Wexford	1063	Ballycullane C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ballycullane, Tintern.
Wexford	1064	Cushinstown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Cushinstown.
Wexford	1065	Monamolin C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Monamolin, Gorey.
Wexford	1066	Raheen C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Raheen, Adamstown.
Wexford	1068	Ramsgrange C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ramsgrange.
Wexford	1069	Campile C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Campile.
Wexford	1071	Clongeen C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Clongeen.
Wexford	1072	Gusserane C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Gusserane, New Ross.
Wexford	1077	Kilmore C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Kilmore.
Wexford	1079	Duncormack C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Duncormack.
Wexford	1084	Templetown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Templetown.
Wexford	1085	Poultier C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Poultier.
Wexford	1086	Bannow C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Carrig-on-Bannow.
Wexford	1087	Mulrankin C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Mulrankin.
Wexford	1099	Ballymore C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Montfield, Killinick.
Wexford	1100	Little Cullinstown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Little Cullinstown.
Wexford	1101	Taghmon C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Taghmon.
Wexford	1102	Marshallstown C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Marshallstown, Ennis-corthy.

County.	No.	Name of Society.	Registered Office.
IRELAND— <i>con.</i>			
Wexford.. ..	1104	Craanford C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Craanford.
Wexford.....	1123	Tagoat C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Tagoat.
Wexford.....	1125	Ferns C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers	Ferns.
Wexford....	1129	Ballycanew C. Pig and Cattle Suppliers.	Ballycanew, Gorey.

IV.— COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

(See Report 20, page 121.)

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

(a) Statistics re Examinations.

	Year 1916.	Year 1915.
Number of Entries for Examinations, excluding Junior and Intermediate Examinations	1,185	1,696
Number of Passes:—		
With Distinction	229	413
Without Distinction	461	749
Number of Failures	495	534

(b) Certificates Issued.

JUNIOR CLASSES IN CO-OPERATION.

Session.	Merit Certificate.	Attendance Certificate.
1915-16.....	4,883	5,260
1914-15.....	4,687	5,133

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

“Lives of Great Men and Women.”

Session.	Prize.	Pass.
1915-16.....	34	160
1914-15.....	45	241

ADULT CLASSES.

	1916.	1915.
Co-operation.....	213	318
Industrial History	32	17
Citizenship ..	—	7
Economics	15	13
Economics of Co-operation	5	6
Co-operative Book-keeping	281	479
Secretaries	7	16
Auditing	8	47

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATES.

	1916.	1915.
Apprentices	91	140
Salesmen	6	149
General Managers	4	27
Honours	2	6

SUMMARY re CERTIFICATES ISSUED.

	1916.	1915.
Junior Certificates.....	10,143	9,820
Intermediate	193	286
Adult	561	840
Management ..	103	322
	11,000	11,268

(c) Grants and Prizes.**JUNIOR CLASSES.**

	1916.				1915.		
Local Examinations:—	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Section I.	23	0	0	....	27	2	6
Section II.	18	10	0	....	18	12	6
Section III. (Co-operative Union)	11	7	6	....	11	12	6
Re-examination of Best Papers	1	0	0	....	1	0	0
	£53	17	6	....	£58	7	6

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

	1916.				1915.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Grants	1	15	0	....	3	15	0
Re-examination	3	0	0	....	3	0	0
	£4	15	0	....	£6	15	0

ADULT CLASSES.

	1916.				1915.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Grants	35	15	0	....	36	0	0
Prizes	8	12	6	....	5	2	6
	£44	7	6	....	£41	2	6

(d) Co-operative Union Scholarships.

Scholarships, enabling adult students to attend any of the Summer Schools for Co-operators, held during 1916, were awarded to the following students:—

Subject.	Name.	Town.
Co-operation	J. Cairns	Leith.
"	J. D. Rees	Mountain Ash.
* "	R. Rodger	Leith.
"	R. Donaldson	Leith.
"	(Mrs.) E. Newton	Middlesbrough.
Industrial History	A. Green	Birmingham.
* Economics	A. Baxter	Eccles.
Economics of Co-operation..	E. Lawton	Manchester.
	R. Pearman	Birmingham.
* Co-operative Book-keeping..	S. Lees	Prestwich.

* Scholarship held over.

BLANDFORD SCHOLARSHIPS.

The two scholarships of the value of £10 each, awarded in open competition in the subject of Co-operation (Third Stage), were won by Mrs. P. Hardstaff (Gourock) and Mr. A. Green (Birmingham). It was not possible to arrange a Co-operative tour on the Continent, therefore Mrs. Hardstaff attended the Summer Schools held at Bridge of Allan and Lytham, and then devoted some

time to studying British co-operation in two or three large centres. An interesting report of these visits was submitted to the Central Education Committee. In the case of Mr. Green it was decided to hold over the scholarship until the end of the war. Mr. Green was able, however, to attend the Summer School at Lytham, having also won one of the Summer School Scholarships in the subject of Industrial History.

REPORT FOR SESSION 1916-17.

(a) CLASSES FORMED.

	Session 1916-17.	Session 1915-16.	Increase.	Decrease.
Co-operation—Junior	348	320	28	—
Intermediate Classes ("Lives of Great Men and Women") ..	27	24	3	—
Co-operation—Adult	25	28	—	3
Industrial History	13	6	7	—
Citizenship	3	—	3	—
Economics	5	4	1	—
Economics of Co-operation	2	1	1	—
Co-operative Control of Raw Materials	1	1	—	—
Co-operative Book-keeping	57	65	—	8
Co-operative Management:—				
Apprentices and Junior Em- ployés	10	18	—	8
Salesmen	2	5	—	3
General Managers (Corre- spondence)	1	1	—	—
Honours (Correspondence)....	1	1	—	—
Training Course for Secretaries (Correspondence).....	1	1	—	—
Training Course for Auditors (Correspondence).....	1	1	—	—
Classes for Women Co-operators:—				
England and Wales	24	14	8	—
Scotland	7	7	—	—
Ireland	3	3	—	—
Special Classes held at Holyoake House:—				
Elocution	—	2	—	2
Industrial History	1	1	—	—
	532	502		
Total, Session 1916-17		532	Classes.	
Total, Session 1915-16		502	„	
Increase.....		30	Classes.	

(b) STUDENTS ENROLLED.

	Session 1916-17.	Session 1915-16.	Increase.	Decrease.
Co-operation—Junior.....	1461½	13645	971	—
Intermediate Classes ("Lives of Great Men and Women")....	516	818	—	297
Co-operation—Adult	357	426	—	69
Industrial History	244	101	143	—
Citizenship	40	—	40	—
Economics	100	53	47	—
Economics of Co-operation	30	10	20	—
Co-operative Control of Raw Materials	4	24	—	20
Co-operative Book-keeping	1097	1173	—	76
Co-operative Management:—				
Apprentice and Junior Em- ployés.....	148	266	—	118
Salesmen	18	93	—	75
General Managers	7	22	—	15
Honours	—	1	—	1
Training Course for Secretaries ..	25	48	—	23
Training Course for Auditors	8	14	—	6
Classes for Women Co-operators..	1022	695	—	—
Special Classes held at Holyoake House:—				
Elocution	—	40	—	40
Industrial History	11	11	—	—
	18243	17435		
Total Number of Students: Session 1916-17			18243	
Total Number of Students: Session 1915-16			17435	
Increase.....			808	

STUDENTS ENTERED FOR EXAMINATION.

	1917.	1916.
Co-operation—Juniors: Sec. III. (Written)	2136	1940
" " Sec. II. (Local)	3133	2403
" " Sec. I. (Local)	4080	3686
Intermediate Classes	340	246
Co-operation Adults.....	252	425
Industrial History	132	73
Citizenship	22	—
Economics	27	21
Economics of Co-operation	14	4

	1917.	1916.
Co-operative Book-keeping	784	870
Training Centres for Co-operative Employés—Apprentices and Junior Employés—Part I.	3	90
„ II.	91	110
Salesmen	11	43
General Managers	7	32
Honours .....	..	3
Training Course for Co-operative Secretaries	6	17
Training Course for Auditors	10	16
The papers returned were as follows:—		
Co-operation—Adults	165	265
Industrial History.....	57	42
Citizenship	14	—
Economics	16	15
Economics of Co-operation.....	11	5
Co-operative Book-keeping	557	646
Training Centres for Co-operative Employés—Apprentices and Junior Employés—Part II.	75	93
Salesmen.....	11	39
General Managers.....	6	23
Honours	—	3
Training Centre for Secretaries	6	17
Training Centre for Auditors	10	16
Junior Classes in Co-operation—		
Re-examination of Best Papers	96	96
Intermediate Classes—		
Re-examination of Best Papers	38	34

CO-OPERATIVE SUMMER SCHOOLS, 1916.

When the Summer Schools ended for 1916 it was possible to look back for a period of nearly three months and say that with the exception of a fortnight there had been no week when a Co-operative Summer School was not running. The first school held was the Scottish School at Bridge of Allan. So successful was this, that it is hoped to hold a school for the full month of July in future years.

The main English School was held during August at Lytham, where record attendances participated in the educational and social advantages of the fourth English Summer School. The attendance during each of the first two weeks reached nearly ninety, and over one hundred at the week-ends; and the attendance was only a little less during the third week, with a smaller attendance during the fourth week, about 250 students attending during the month. This result, we venture to say, would have been dismissed as impossible of achievement if it had been prophesied in the days

before the schools began. The plan was tried of having all the lectures and classes before noon, so that the afternoons and evenings could be free for excursions. It cannot be said that this plan proved altogether successful. The students complained of being unable to assimilate the lessons of one lecture before they were called upon to attend another lecture; and the granting of freedom at noon for the rest of the day led to the party becoming more scattered than at previous schools, to the great disadvantage of the school from the point of view of fellowship. It was also a disadvantage of this year's arrangements that the students were housed in different buildings. They did not meet as frequently as at previous schools, and this, combined with the unusually large numbers present, led to students not getting into touch with one another as much as in previous years. Partly to meet this difficulty, attendance at future schools is to be limited to fifty students per week.

One of the most striking things of the Summer Schools this year has been the success of the Southern School, held at London during the first fortnight of September. Doubts about our ability to secure sufficient students were freely expressed; but over one hundred tickets were sold for each week; and the daily attendance was usually about eighty students. The interest of the students was very keen; and the Summer School for the South has come to stay. One pleasing feature was the fact that societies which previously had never given Summer School scholarships gave them to the Southern School. We should not be surprised if, in the near future, a school for the North of the Thames and one for the South of the Thames are demanded in the South of England.

Perhaps the most unique of this year's schools was that held at Plymouth in September. It was unique in being arranged by one society, and was held in the society's own holiday home. It continued for only a week, but was full of happy memories. The group of students was big enough to be company, and small enough to enable the students to know one another intimately. With delightful weather, the Plymouth School ranks among the best that have been held.

The number of students attending the schools was as follows:—

	Bridge of Allan (two weeks).	Lytham (four weeks)	London (two weeks).	Plymouth (one week).
Average number of Students attending each week...	30	65	75	30
Total number of Students	60	260	150	30

Grand total—500 Students, exclusive of lecturers and domestic staffs.

The subjects of the course lectures were as follows:—

Welfare of the Group.

History and Economics of Co-operation.

Social Developments in the Nineteenth Century.

International Trade and Exchange.

Co-operative Statistics and Statistical Methods.

Co-operation and Social Problems.

Social Development before 1800.

Money, Banking, and Prices.

A number of single lectures on a variety of subjects were also given.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILD.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1916.

The Fifth Annual Meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Birkenhead, on Easter Saturday, 22nd April, 1916. There was a good attendance, made up as follows:—25 branches, 48; 6 societies, 10; visitors, 12; central committee, 10.

Mr. W. H. Watkins (chairman of the Central Council) occupied the chair

1. The Chairman welcomed the delegates.

2. The following fraternal greetings were received:—

(a) Co-operative Union: Mr. W. Dewhurst.

(b) Co-operative Wholesale Society: Mr. W. E. Dudley.

(c) Women's Guild: Mrs. M. E. Cottrell.

3. The Fifth Annual Report and Cash Statement were adopted.

4. The declaration of elections was as follows:—

(a) Central Council: Messrs. R. Weare, F. Whittaker, A. Park, and F. Marsden.

(b) Joint Secretaryship: Mr. W. Chas. Potter.

5. The standing orders presented by the Special Committee were amended and adopted in the form as printed on page 13.

6. The following resolutions were adopted:—

(a) "That, in the opinion of this meeting, co-operative insurance (collective and industrial) should be developed, and urges upon Guild branches to consider the subject and take steps to assist such development."

(b) "That this annual meeting of the National Co-operative Men's Guild approves the establishment of a Co-operative and Labour Board (1) to promote a better working agreement between the two movements without in any way interfering with the separate and distinct functions of each constituent body; (2) to see how far it is practically possible for the surplus capital of the respective movements to be utilised for the promotion and development of co-operative enterprise; (3) to examine the facilities for banking and insurance now offered by the co-operative movement, to see how far these could be extended and improved, or made more adaptable to working-class requirements; (4) to consider how far it is desirable and possible to ensure the unrestricted supply and distribution of food and other necessities during periods of abnormal stress; (5) to organise special conferences, whenever

necessary, with a view to influencing public opinion in support of questions affecting the life of the people."

- (c) "That this annual meeting approves the policy of concentration in the study of selected subjects. It desires that this policy may be carried further by the organisation of study circles where no Guild branch exists, and by the formation of such circles in connection with Guild branches to supplement the general work of the Guild. This meeting looks for the development of the provision of carefully arranged leaflets to aid the study of these circles, and asks that the Central Council may from time to time suggest suitable subjects for special consideration."

- (d) "That this annual meeting considers the time is ripe for an active propaganda throughout the branches of the Men's Guild in favour of the immediate acquisition by the co-operative movement of land and the sources of supply of raw materials."

- (e) "That this annual meeting of Co-operative Men's Guilds, in view of the enormous expenditure now being incurred in the prosecution of the war, of the abnormal increase in the cost of living which falls most heavily upon the poorer classes, of the likelihood of further taxation raising still higher the prices of commodities, and of the urgent necessity for increasing the home production of food, timber, minerals, &c. urges the Government to take immediate steps to acquire for the use of the nation all uncultivated or otherwise undeveloped land, and make provision for complete nationalisation of all land in the United Kingdom."

[Copies of Resolution (e) were directed to be sent to the Prime Minister, President of the Board of Agriculture, and the President of the Board of Trade.]

W. H. WATKINS, Chairman.

W. CHARLES POTTER, }
C. E. WOOD, } Joint Secretaries.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1917.

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

President: W. R. RAE (Chairman, Central Education Committee).

Chairman: W. H. WATKINS (Plymouth).

A. GIBBINS (Brighton), A. HOLLANDS (Willesden), C. F. HOUSEMAN (Liverpool),

J. MARSDEN (Leeds), A. PARK (Failsworth), C. H. RUSSELL (Birkenhead),

JOHN SMITH (Eastwood), A. J. TAPPING (Derby),

R. WEARE (Birkenhead), F. WHITTAKER (Bolton), J. T. WOOD (Bradford).

Joint Secretaries: W. CHAS. POTTER, 61, Ingleby Road, Ilford, London, E.

C. E. WOOD, Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. W. R. Jackson, of Edmonton, through military duties, was filled by the election of Mr. F. Marsden, of Leeds; otherwise the constitution of the Central Council has remained unaltered. During the year, however, Mr. John Smith, of Eastwood, has been called up for military duties. Mr. A. Baxter, who so often officiated as secretary for Mr. C. E. Wood, has also been called up. We sincerely hope that both colleagues will have a safe and speedy return to civil life. One of our secretaries, Mr. W. Chas. Potter, has returned to us from the army, and we are pleased to be able to say, has resumed his old position.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

Last year we wrote "When writing our report last year we expressed the hope that the following winter would see us free from the turmoil of warfare. That hope has not been realised, but, on the contrary, the whole position seems to be more complicated." We venture to hope, however, that the position is a little more clear to-day, although the war continues at the moment of writing. The past year has, perhaps, had the greatest effect on the Guild because of the higher average age of the men called to the Colours. Yet we are pleased to say that most of the branches are still "carrying on," and that quite a number of new branches have been formed. The total number of branches is now 98, with a total of 3,500 members. This means an increase of 13 branches and 400 members respectively. The increase in Scotland is most encouraging. There are now 7 branches, with 268 members north of the Tweed affiliated to the National Men's Guild, and the numbers of both branches and membership in Scotland are steadily growing.

CONFERENCES.

We had to report last year the postponement of the conferences arranged with the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Board on "Co-operative Production and Distribution." We are pleased to state that during the year under review it was found possible to continue these conferences. The idea of inviting local trade-unionists was again followed with marked success. The whole of the conferences were well attended, great attention was paid to the speakers, the discussions were well sustained, the arrangements made proved satisfactory and the proceedings generally were admitted to be interesting and stimulating by those who took part. It is felt by the Council that quarterly conferences on the same or approximately similar lines should be continued. Messrs. Clayton and English spoke at the Newcastle-on-Tyne conference, Messrs. Dudley and Johns at Bristol, and Messrs. Arnold and Golightly at London. We hereby record our thanks to these gentlemen and to the C.W.S. Board of Directors for the valuable services rendered.

Early in the summer Mr. Watkins and Mr. Park addressed a conference at Glasgow on the subject of "Men's Guilds." The addresses were received

with enthusiasm and no doubt have had a share in the increase of branches in Scotland.

It is now general for Men's Guild branches to be represented at conferences of the Co-operative Union and the Educational Committees' Associations. Many branches report that these conferences have given much pleasure and been of great educational value to their members.

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

The District Councils continue to do valuable and important work, both in the Guild and the co-operative movement generally. The only one established during the year has been the Scottish. These councils now number six, as follows:—London, Mersey District, Manchester, Yorkshire, Midland, and Scottish. Their work is briefly summarised under.

London.—The honorary secretary reports that war conditions are seriously hampering activities, but the District Council is keeping in touch with all the London branches. Twelve guild meetings have been addressed by members of the district councils on the subjects recommended by the National Council. The District Council follows the plan of visiting the branches in turn, and opportunity is always taken to organise a propaganda meeting whenever the Council meets. A conference on the Duties of Officers of Guild Branches was held in November at which particularly valuable suggestions were made. So much so that the Council decided to get the matter suitably arranged and ask the National Council to issue it as a guild pamphlet.

Mersey District.—This District Council deserves special mention inasmuch as it is the first council to organise "Two-Days" Schools under the direct auspices of the Men's Guild. The plan is to hold the school during Saturday and Sunday, which enables four or five consecutive discussion classes to be arranged. By this means the subject chosen can be fairly adequately dealt with. A well-known authority on the subject is asked to act as class leader. The school was enthusiastically taken up by the guild members and trade union friends. The success was so marked that a special report is in preparation for the information of district councils and branches.

Manchester.—War conditions have interfered greatly with the work of this district council. Societies have been written to, and in some cases deputations arranged urging the formation of branches of the guild, but no great progress has been made, and it was thought the time was not opportune for forming branches so many men being engaged on munitions and on other war work. It is the intention of the District Council to conduct a vigorous campaign amongst the societies as soon as conditions permit. Reports have been received from the various branches in the district of the work at present being undertaken by them.

Yorkshire.—A year's useful work has been accomplished, several new branches being directly started by the Council during the time under review. In addition to the usual meetings a large and successful meeting was held

at the People's Hall, Leeds, on 21st October, 1916. Mr. Swallow, public auditor, gave an address on "Excess Profits and Income Tax." There were two hundred and forty delegates present and the meeting was of a most enthusiastic character. Such a conference speaks well for the organising ability of the District Council and augurs well for the coming times of peace, when the Council hope to make great strides in guild work.

Midland District.—After one or two tentative efforts this Council is now well and truly founded. The Council started the year with six branches, which has been increased to ten, an increase which is highly creditable in war time. The work has been carried on with determination and the meetings organised by the Council have been enthusiastic and well attended. The affiliated branches have been helped in every way. One special feature deserves mention. The Walsall Branch of the guild succeeded in inducing their society to become affiliated to the local Labour Party.

Scottish.—The baby of the district councils is now a very lusty infant and is growing at a rapid rate. There are now fifteen branches in the district and more in contemplation. The Council has made a special feature of organising new branches during the year. A constitution has been drawn up and adopted. This contains a unique feature. The executive committee includes a delegate from the Scottish Sectional Board of the Co-operative Union. We thus see ripe experience joined to youth. The experiment will be watched with interest. We see many reasons why it should prove of great benefit to the District Council.

WORK IN THE BRANCHES.

As instructed at the last annual meeting, the Central Council prepared a series of "Notes for Speakers" for the use of branches on the following subjects :—

- (a) Co-operative Insurance.
- (b) Joint Work with Labour Organisations.
- (c) Co-operative Control of Raw Materials.
- (d) Excess Profits and Income Tax.
- (e) Amalgamation and Overlapping.

These notes have been well received and on more than one occasion have been favourably commented upon by well-known co-operative lecturers. The first edition was soon exhausted. Many branches have found them useful when arranging their annual programme. The first two series of "Notes" have been elaborated and issued as separate pamphlets. These matters, "Co-operative Insurance" and "Joint Work with Labour Organisations" will undoubtedly loom very large in the co-operative world in the immediate future, and branches will do well to keep them well in view.

As stated above, the war has played havoc with continuous work in many of the branches, but most of them are "keeping together" and waiting for happier times.

AUTUMN CIRCULAR.

Early in the autumn, and on behalf of the Central Council, a circular signed by the chairman and joint secretaries was sent out to the whole of the branches and District Councils, urging upon them the desirability of preparing a winter syllabus or programme, despite the adverse conditions then prevailing. It was pointed out in this circular that guild members and co-operators generally should, as far as possible, prepare themselves to take part in the social reconstruction which must follow the war whenever that may end. It was also urged that wherever possible study circles should be formed for the consideration of the subjects decided upon by the Central Council, and in respect to which "Notes for Speakers" were being prepared. The circular concluded with the suggestion that branches should work in conjunction with local branches of the Women's Guild:—

- (a) In connection with local co-operative developments.
- (b) In bringing the movement more prominently before the notice of trades councils, trade union branches, and trade-unionists generally.

JOINT WORK WITH THE WOMEN'S GUILD.

We are pleased to state that the suggestion thrown out in the foregoing paragraph is being largely acted upon. The majority of branches report that they hold fairly frequent meetings in conjunction with women's guild branches. In some districts a "Joint Guilds Committee" has been established, which is comprised of delegates from all the branches of the men's and women's guilds connected with a local co-operative society. This committee watches all matters of joint interest, local and national. Often it is able to hold large joint meetings of the guilds for such objects as the consideration of the local society's balance sheet, combined educational policy, combined propaganda meetings, socials, whist drives, and so on; often representatives from the local education committee sit with the joint guilds committee. We heartily recommend the establishment of such committees to all our branches.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PRESS.

Our thanks are again due to the *Co-operative News* for the monthly publication of National Men's Guild Notes, and to many editors of local *Wheatsheafs* and *Records* for their kindly insertion of branch news and engagements.

STANDING ORDERS.

Attention is called to the appendix of this report, where the matter of the Standing Orders for the annual meeting, &c., is again brought to your notice.

FINANCE.

From the statement of accounts it will be seen that the total income of the Guild for the financial year 1916 was £79. 19s. 1d., whilst the payments were £135. 12s. 6d. This deficit of £55. 13s. 5d. will be defrayed by the

Co-operative Union, through its Educational Department, but we desire to point out that whilst the recorded membership of the National Guild for 1916 was 3,320, only 2,531 members were paid on by the various branches throughout the country. This falling off is doubtless under present circumstances inevitable, but we propose to make inquiries with respect to the actual membership of each branch and also to make inquiries regarding branches from whom we have not heard for some time. We wish to have the Men's Guild movement strong and healthy in all directions, and we ask all branches to become affiliated to the national body.

AN APPEAL.

In conclusion, we wish to particularly appeal to the branches to work hard to get the following resolution passed by their local societies before Whitsuntide, when the subject will be considered by the Co-operative Congress at Swansea :—

“This society heartily approves the resolution passed at the last Trades Union Congress, namely, ‘That this Congress is of opinion the development of the co-operative movement is essential to a militant trade union movement, and invites the Co-operative Congress to appoint a committee of six to meet a similar number appointed by this Congress to prepare plans for mutual assistance in developing the productive, distributive, and banking activities of the co-operative movement, always providing that the co-operative movement, represented by the Co-operative Union Limited, is prepared to recognise the trade union rate of wages and conditions of employment as laid down by the trade unions affiliated to the Trade Union Congress,’ and is in favour of the establishment of the committee proposed therein.”

The importance of a thorough understanding and a working policy with the other great wing of the working class movement cannot be overstated. With the coming of peace, trade union and co-operative problems will call urgently for solution. Some of them will be so important that upon their satisfactory solution will depend the existence of many of our civil liberties. All that was hoped for from the war—if indeed anyone now expects anything but sadness and trouble from it—may be cast to the four winds of Heaven and the net result to the working classes may easily be harder and still harder work, for less and still less real wages. That this can only be prevented by solidarity is becoming recognised. Therefore, it is well for trade-unionists and co-operators to get the idea of solidarity well implanted in their minds, and for branches of the Guild to determine to do their utmost to cement the bargain offered to us by our trade union friends.

W. H. WATKINS, Chairman.

W. CHARLES POTTER, }	Hon.
C. E. WOOD, }	Joint Secretaries.

**V.—Report of the Representative of the Co-operative Union
Attending the Trades Union Congress, held at
Birmingham, September, 1916.**

BY J. MILLINGTON.

(See Report 49, page 249.)

I attended the Trades Union Congress held in the Birmingham Town Hall, on 4th September, 1916, and five following days.

The proceedings opened by a welcome being extended on behalf of the local trade-unionists by Councillor Kesterton (secretary, Birmingham Trades Council) and the Lord Mayor, Alderman Neville Chamberlain (Director of National Service), on behalf of the city of Birmingham.

The Lord Mayor, in his address, did rather an unusual thing. Instead of confining himself, as is the usual practice, to a few general remarks of a neutral character, he gave what he thought ought to be the future aims and relationship between capital and labour. From the men's point of view he contended three things were desirable :—First, the men should have a greater share in the management of industry ; second, greater regularity of employment ; third, improved conditions in home and factory. From the masters' point of view there were three things desirable :—First, masters had a right to expect the best from the men in quality and quantity ; second, that reasonable notice should be given of changes in conditions of labour ; third, that labour should not be withdrawn unnecessarily. The speech was well received, it being felt it was the earnest and sincere opinion of a sound business man.

There were quite a number of fraternal delegates. Two from America, one from Canada, Mr. O'Grady, M.P., on behalf of the Trades Federation, and Mr. Wardle, M.P., of the Labour Party.

I was given a good reception, and my remarks were listened to with great attention. I expressed the pleasure of co-operators in sending to them fraternal greetings. I endeavoured to show the identity of interests between the two movements, the origin of both being in the needs of the worker. I further pointed out the absolute necessity in the future of the earning and the spending power of the worker being combined, and the social ideals of both could be best attained by joint action. I gave them a short statement of the movement up to date, in number of societies, distributive and productive, capital, membership, trade, and surplus for the past year.

Mr. Harry Gosling was president of Congress. He proved himself a very strong but genial chairman. His address was chiefly devoted to after-war problems, and was a fine exposition of the aims and objects of Labour, its present and future position.

There were 667 delegates present. There were a great number and variety of resolutions on the agenda, the chief being—"Increased Cost

of Living," "Increase in Old-age Pensions," "Nationalisation of Railways," "Consolidation of the Labour Movement," "Nationalisation of Industry," "Industrial Adjustments after the War," "Fiscal Policy," &c.

The following resolution, which was carried, will be of special interest to co-operators:—

This Congress is of opinion that the development of the co-operative movement is essential to an active trade union movement, and invites the Co-operative Union to appoint a committee of six to meet a similar number appointed by the Trades Union Congress, to prepare plans for mutual assistance in developing the productive, distributive, and banking activities of the co-operative movement, always providing that the co-operative movement, as represented by the Co-operative Union Limited, is prepared to recognise the trade union rates of wages and conditions of employment, as laid down by the trade unions affiliated to the Trade Union Congress.

The Congress as a whole impressed me greatly, not only as to its size, but in the debating power of the delegates, and the sincerity and conviction with which they advanced their different points of view. It seemed to me greatly in advance in all respects to the one I attended some years ago at Huddersfield.

I enjoyed the Congress very much, and take this opportunity of returning thanks for the privilege of attending

VI.—SUMMARISED REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILDS.

I.—ENGLAND.

SUMMARISED REPORT, MARCH, 1916—MARCH, 1917.

(See Report 51, page 250.)

Central Committee.

Mrs. Wilkin (president).	Mrs. Butler.
„ Nevitt (vice-president).	„ Daymond.
„ Booth (treasurer).	„ Found.
Miss Llewelyn Davies (general secretary).	„ Hood.

Number of Members—April, 1916 29,573.

„ „ Branches „ „ 609.

The present-day difficulties facing an educational and propagandist body like the guild have increased during the year. The darkening of towns has extended all over the country; halls are engaged, and the claims on women to take up every variety of work are rapidly increasing. Some of our members have lost sons or other relatives, among whom is our president,

Mrs. Wilkin. Others have had sons wounded or invalided home. To all we offer our sincere sympathy.

Under the circumstances, a decrease in membership is unavoidable, and a few branches have been obliged to close temporarily. But, in spite of all obstacles, the general work of the guild has been carried on with customary keenness and enthusiasm.

GUILD EDUCATION.

The systematic education of our members has been carried on by means of (a) Sectional and (b) District and Branch "Schools."

(a) Six Sectional Schools, lasting four days, have been held, to which district speakers and teachers of two-day schools were specially invited. Nine lectures were given on the following subjects:—"Co-operative Democracy," "A Co-operative Offensive," "Co-operation and Taxation," "Labour During and After the War," "National Care of Maternity," "Co-operation and International Life." The discussions which followed were most valuable. The cost of the schools was £38. 11s. 9d., towards which the following societies, to whom we desire to express our heartfelt thanks, most kindly gave donations:—Bristol, £10; Leicester, £5; Wakefield, £5; Newcastle, £2. 2s.; Pendleton, £1. 1s.

(b) Schools have been held in 21 districts, several districts arranging more than one. The attendance at the schools, most of which lasted two days, has been from 30 to 80.

Guildswomen are showing special interest in the subject of taxation, not only from the injustice to co-operators of the excess profits and threatened income taxes, but from realising that in resisting these taxes co-operators must be prepared to put forward and support a national system of taxation, which shall tax land values and wealth and remove taxation from the food and wages of the workers.

In connection with the Excess Profits Tax, an additional argument has been added for the removal of all restrictions on membership. The profits being calculated per member, increased membership drawn from the families of co-operators reduces the excess surplus on trade. Guild branches have urged this reform on several societies, and a few have adopted it.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE PROPAGANDA.

The guild has steadily pressed forward the need for organised propaganda, both in extending the movement on the lines suggested in last year's report and in making it felt as a force in national life. For the latter purpose the guild has advocated that co-operative societies should consider national and reconstruction questions, which will affect both the movement and individual co-operators, from the standpoint of co-operative principle. They should then make their views known to their local M.P.'s in such a way, as to show that there is a strong body of voters to back the co-operative view.

It should be noted that, in order to protect the movement and carry out co-operative principles in national life after the war, it is essential to

secure Adult Suffrage. At present in many societies women form 50 to 70 per cent of the membership, and until they are enfranchised the movement will not have its due weight in constituencies. The guild, therefore, urges that, in its own interest, the co-operative movement should support this great reform.

We regret that still only two Sectional Boards (the Northern and Midland) have placed a woman on their Sectional Propaganda Committee. The North-Western Board declined to put on a guild representative. They informed us that "whilst they appreciate very highly the work which your guild is doing, they cannot see their way to allow your guild to be represented on the Sectional Propaganda Committee . . . your guild not being affiliated with the Union debars us to some extent from inviting you to appoint representatives at our Propaganda Committee." We wrote to point out that we have a representative on the Central Education Committee, and that two Sectional Boards have decided to invite our representatives to serve on their Propaganda Committees, but have not received any further letter.

FOOD PRICES.

When the Government Food Prices Committee was appointed, in July, 1916, the guild collected evidence which was embodied in a memorandum, on which the general secretary and Mrs. Layton gave evidence. The information supplied by guildswomen proved conclusively the serious under consumption arising from the high prices among many classes, and especially the effect on mothers and young children. Instances were also given showing how co-operative societies had kept down prices. The recommendation of the guild included: (1) The taking over of the supplies of meat, wheat, milk, and coal by the Government, and their distribution through the agency of municipalities and co-operative societies, as the only means of preventing profiteering; (2) the provision of dinners and milk by municipalities, for nursing and expectant mothers and young children.

The latter proposal was included in the interim report of the Food Prices Committee. At the conference of co-operative societies and trade unions, called by the Labour Party in December, 1916, a resolution urging immediate action in this direction was moved by the guild, and passed unanimously. It is to be regretted that the United Board did not include this important proposal in its official resolutions at the Co-operative Food Prices Conferences in January, 1917.

The memorandum was sent to the press, and received widespread publicity. A testimony to the way in which it brought home the suffering caused by high prices was given in the donations sent for special cases by casual readers.

CO-OPERATIVE LIFE INSURANCE.

The advantages of co-operative life insurance were brought before the delegates at the Guild Annual Congress, 1916, and both districts and

branches have been urged to ask the Co-operative Insurance Society to send speakers to their conferences and meetings.

THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS."

The guild feels strongly the value of the *Co-operative News* to the movement, and continually advocates its sale. The proportion of guild members taking it is much larger than the proportion of co-operators generally.

THE NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY.

Considerable progress has been made in securing the development of the care of maternity in numerous districts. Guild branches have been active in about 50 towns, in pressing local authorities to draw up schemes or to extend their work, with successful results in 33 places. A special effort has been made to get maternity committees, including representatives of working-women's organisations, established by public health authorities. These are now in existence in at least 42 areas, and a considerable number of guildswomen are serving on them. The work of securing representation on these committees has been helped by the Local Government Board circular issued in the autumn, 1916, in which it is definitely recommended that representatives of the four industrial women's organisations should be placed on these committees.

The appointment of health visitors and formation of maternity centres are being rapidly extended. Additional reforms immediately needed are the provision of dinners and milk for mothers and young children, and the institution of a municipal service of midwives. The latter is of great importance, as the supply of midwives is decreasing, a serious shortage of doctors for a number of years is being caused by the war, and improved training for midwives is necessary.

The guild is pressing that the new Bill on Maternity and Infant Welfare now promised should make compulsory the formation of maternity committees, the establishment of maternity centres, the provision of dinners and milk, and the institution of a municipal service of midwives wherever there is a shortage of these, and that the 50 per cent grant from the Local Government Board should be made for all this work; also that the powers of local authorities in England and Wales should be extended, to enable them to undertake any work necessary for the proper care of maternity. A memorandum was prepared and placed before Lord Rhondda by the general secretary.

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ON CO-OPERATIVE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

During the year the guild has brought forward prominently the whole question of the inadequate representation of women in the co-operative movement. How disproportionate this is is shown by the following figures:—

Central Board—70 members, 1 woman.

Sixty-one District Association Executives—12 women on 4 executives (one district admits educational committees and guild branches to membership, and 8 of the 12 women are appointed by them).

1,094 Management Committees—111 women in 71 societies (England and Wales).

330 (approximately) Educational Committees—431 women in 158 societies (England and Wales).

The difficulty of securing the election of women on to the Central Board and district association executives is especially great, as the elections for these bodies are practically entirely in the hands of management committees, nearly all of whom are men. As an illustration, the experience of women candidates in the North-Western and Midland sections may be quoted. A woman candidate has stood year by year in the North-Western Section for many years, and for several years in the Midland Section. These candidates have been such well-known and respected women as Miss Reddish, Mrs. Bury, Mrs. Blair, and Mrs. Cottrell. In no case has any one of these been successful.

The interim report of the Survey Committee, in 1916, brought the question of the constitution of the Co-operative Union before the movement. This report contained certain proposals affecting the guild and with regard to the constitution of the Union, to which the Central Committee were strongly opposed. The general secretary, who represented the guild on the Survey Committee, sent in a note dissociating herself from these proposals, and asked that it should be published with the interim report, a common practice in regard to public committees of inquiry. The Survey Committee refused to publish this note. The Central Committee, therefore, decided to withdraw their representative as the only method of showing that they entirely dissented from these particular proposals, which they considered it necessary to oppose actively.

The guild has put forward proposals in favour of the self-government of rank and file organisations, of an executive of the Co-operative Union directly elected by members' meetings, and of definite provision for the representation of women, elected by societies on this executive. In regard to the last proposal, the principle of providing for the representation of different interests is already accepted in the Co-operative Union by the provision for *sectional representation*. There is exactly the same reason for securing representation for women as there is for securing by rule representation, say, for the Southern and Western sections. It is also of interest to note that women trade-unionists are putting forward the same plea for representation of women on the executives of mixed unions. The full proposals of the guild are given in the pamphlets "Democracy in the Co-operative Movement" and "Seats for Women."

REPRESENTATION ON PUBLIC AND OTHER COMMITTEES.

The guild has joined with the Women's Trade Unions, Women's Labour League, and Railway Women's Guild, in forming a standing joint committee to deal with matters affecting working-women's interests. A large part of its work has been in connection with providing working-women representatives on public committees, such as the Naval and Military Pensions Com-

mittee, and both the Statutory Naval and Military Pensions Committee and the Local Government Board in official circulars have recommended local authorities to apply to it. A very large number, probably several hundreds of working-women, have been appointed on to Naval and Military Pensions Committee through its instrumentality.

The Joint Committee has also issued a memorandum on the position of women in industry due to the war, which contains a full analysis of the position and a number of recommendations as to measures necessary at the end of the war.

An important position to which several guildswomen have been appointed is that of assessors to munitions tribunals, and they have been able to render good service to women workers.

We desire to express the greatest satisfaction at the appointment of Mrs. Cottrell as a city councillor in Birmingham. Mrs. Cottrell is the first guildswoman to hold this office. We congratulate the Labour Party in Birmingham in securing such an excellent representative.

The representation of women on various public committees in April, 1916, is given below :—

One guildswoman, Mrs. Cottrell, on a City Council (Birmingham).

Forty-four guildswomen sit on public health maternity committees in 17 towns.

One hundred and nineteen guildswomen sit on 81 local insurance committees, and 33 on 23 district insurance committees.

Seventeen guildswomen sit on higher education committees in 16 towns.

Fifty-six guildswomen are poor law guardians.

Twenty-three guildswomen are assessors to munitions tribunals.

Sixteen guildswomen sit on 14 naval and military pensions committees.

This number is now, March, 1917, much larger.

ANNUAL CONGRESS.

The annual Congress was held in London, the attendance was a record one. Nearly 800 delegates representing 385 branches were present, and each day the galleries of the Central Hall, Westminster, were filled by 1,000 to 1,500 guild members and other visitors. We desire to express our warmest thanks to the 10 London societies for their generous provision for the Congress.

GUILD CONVALESCENT FUND.

The receipts in 1916 were £251. 9s. 8½d., and the expenditure was £177. 4s. 7½d. The number of convalescents sent away was 101, an increase of 13 on the preceding year.

FUNDS.

We desire to express our heartiest thanks to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for their grant of £150, and to the 57 co-operative societies which have most kindly sent us donations, amounting, so far (9th March, 1917),

to a total of £128. 11s. At the annual Congress, 1916, an amendment to Rule 5 was passed by a very large majority, raising the affiliation subscription of branches from 2d. to 4d. per member.

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand, 1st January, 1916—						
Coming-of-Age Fund	13	6	8			
<i>Less</i> Deficit on Central Fund	7	19	7			
				5	6	11
„ Subscriptions to Central Fund	237	10	9			
„ Special Subscriptions to Central Fund	96	11	7			
„ Increased Central Fund (1916-17)	29	1	4			
„ Self-government Fund	37	1	1			
				400	4	9
„ Donation from Co-operative Wholesale Society				150	0	0
„ Annual Congress Fund—						
Repaid	£24	1	0			
Surplus given to Central Fund ..	42	2	4			
				66	3	4
„ Coming-of-Age Fund—						
Societies' Donations	20	0	0			
Other „	2	10	5			
				22	10	5
„ Sales—Literature	86	12	4			
Badges	5	1	3			
Membership Cards	3	3	8			
Business Books	9	5	8			
				104	2	11
„ Special Fund—Donations from Societies				32	5	6
„ Loan for Business Books (Balance outstanding)				38	15	3
„ Insurance Rebate				0	18	8
„ Dividend and Interest				5	13	1
„ Deficit on Central Fund				32	13	10½
				£858	14	8½

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Postage, Telegrams, and Parcels				57	3	10
„ Stationery				24	9	9
„ Printing				66	16	9
„ Central Committee—Fares and Postage				42	5	5½
„ Speakers' Expenses				6	17	8
„ Representatives' Expenses ..				23	7	4½
„ Literature				78	4	11½
„ Grants to Sections				142	0	0
„ Honorariums to Sectional Secretaries				52	0	0
„ Sectional Conferences				14	6	11
„ Grants to Districts				23	10	0
„ Office Expenses—Rent	£50	0	0			
Fire, Light, Cleaning, and Insurance	33	16	0			
				83	16	0
„ Clerks				102	7	6
„ National Health Insurance				2	4	0
„ Auditor				1	1	0
„ Coming-of-Age Fund—Sectional Schools	£38	11	9			
Two Days Schools	5	16	8			
				44	8	5
„ Annual Congress—Printing	24	1	0			
District Representatives' Expenses	11	11	1			
				35	12	1
„ Subscriptions to other Organisations and Delegates' Fees				5	5	0
„ Business Books—Repaid Loan	£12	19	8			
Balance of Loan	38	15	3			
				51	14	11
„ Bank Commission, Interest, and Cheque Books				1	3	1
				£858	14	5½

Audited and found correct—

A. E. NEWMAN, Public Auditor.

5th April, 1917.

II.—SCOTLAND.

The Central Council has again pleasure in submitting for consideration the annual report and balance sheet.

Another sad and anxious year is drawing to a close so far as the work of the guild is concerned, and we are relieved to be able to state that the energy and spirit of the guild women have not been lessened at all, and that if our numbers are affected it will be found to be in a very trifling degree.

Some branches, as was the case last year, failed to make a start for want of hall accommodation; but this has been more than made up for by the opening of several new branches, and by considerable increase of membership in some already established.

For the past year the activities of the Scottish Guild women have been largely occupied with arrangements for providing our army and navy with additional comforts, in the form of all kinds of clothing and food. This is putting it very baldly. If we were to try to enumerate what the branches have done in this way, the list would be a very formidable one indeed; but everyone has been most zealous, and the result is very creditable to the industry of the guild women. Entertainments, such as concerts and banquets to the men invalided home, have also been very frequent.

The educational aspect of our work has, however, not been altogether neglected, and many branches have had lectures on co-operative and social subjects generally.

We hope that soon the need for such unusual efforts referred to above will cease, and that the guild women will come back with greater zest than ever, and take up what is, after all, our true function, namely—implanting and confirming true co-operative principles in the minds of our members. The movement has been experiencing attacks cunningly designed to cripple its usefulness and stop its progress. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that women, who in many societies compose the largest portion of the membership, should have an intelligent appreciation of the position we are in. The guild branch should, therefore, see that every member has the opportunity of hearing of the history of the movement, what it has attained, and what it might aspire to.

The classes for women, which have been formed under the auspices of the Co-operative Union, are later in opening this session, in the hope that the lengthening daylight may induce a larger attendance. These classes, which open in the second week in April, are to meet in the following centres:—

<i>Centres.</i>					<i>Teachers.</i>
GLASGOW	..	..	..	..	MR. W. REID.
EDINBURGH	..	..	..	..	MRS. LAMONT.
AYR	..	..	..	..	MR. MALCOLM.
KIRKCALDY	..	..	..	..	MR. PYE.

<i>Centres.</i>					<i>Teachers.</i>
ABERDEEN .. .. .	..	..	..	..	MISS TAYLOR.
PERTH .. .. .	..	..	..	..	MR. MUIR.
COATBRIDGE.. .. .	..	..	..	..	MRS. TULLOCH.

The seven sections have all done excellently, notwithstanding the serious increase in railway fares. All the visits possible have been made to the branches already in existence, while several new branches have been opened.

The sale of flags goes merrily on, while many other means of raising funds for "Airdmhor Extension" have been adopted.

There is a large increase in the appointments of women to boards of management, in our own movement, to educational committees, and other positions of influence. While we also have guild women on the committee of the Co-operative Union, the National Propaganda Committee, the committee of the Prince of Wales Fund, the local committees for disabled soldiers and sailors, the Old-Age Pension Committee, National Vigilance Committee, parish councils, school boards, one chairman of school board, town councils, &c.

We are pleased to announce an increased membership of 1,423. The number of branches given (191) are really those which are open and alive. We are not including any which have not opened this year.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild was held in the Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 20th May, 1916, when the guild delegates were the guests of St. Cuthbert's Association.

Mrs. Tulloch (president, Central Council) presided.

Mr. Thomson (on behalf of St. Cuthbert's Association) welcomed the Guild to Edinburgh, and said the great and good work which was being carried on by the Women's Guild, not only in his own district, but throughout the co-operative movement, had at all times been appreciated and highly valued by co-operators in the East of Scotland, and they of St. Cuthbert's felt honoured in having the guild as their guests on the occasion of their annual meeting. The great and terrible war in which the nation was involved had, he thought, brought home to everyone the true value and worth of their British womanhood. He hoped that their guild work would continue to prosper, and that their meeting would be of great benefit to the general body of the members. He wished them every success, and hoped that the sphere and influence of the guild would continue to extend and its membership to increase, and that, although they might not always attain to the desired goal, they would not be discouraged, but go forward in their good work.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Before introducing the business of the meeting, the president referred to the loss which the guild movement had sustained through the death of Mrs. Crighton, who had been their auditor for a number of years, and who had taken a very prominent part in the work of the guild. She also referred in sympathetic terms to the loss which Mrs. Stevenson (Alloa) had sustained through the death of Mr. Stevenson, and in token of sympathy the delegates rose in their places.

Continuing, Mrs. Tulloch said they were again met under the shadow of the sword. Many homes had been bereft of their breadwinners, and in many countries the voice of Rachel, for her children weeping, could be heard. Still, in all the distress and tribulation, the guild women had continued to act nobly and unselfishly; with unabated zeal and undaunted courage they were facing what was before them, and worked away raising sums of money to enable them to send presents to the soldiers and sailors. They sped with cheerful benediction the loved ones they were sending forth, and with open arms and table bountifully spread welcomed their return whenever a brief respite was granted. How would the men fare but for this? It was good for a man to know that one woman was devoted to him alone, but it was also comforting and helpful in the hour of danger to know that so many working women at home recognised the greatness of the sacrifice they were making. Besides the sums of money raised for comforts, large sums had also been given to various war funds, and many of the branches were making contributions to the Limbless Soldiers and Sailors' Fund; busily working for others, they forget for a time their own vacant chairs. The Coming-of-Age Fund had not been forgotten. Two directors of the Homes Association had talked over the question, and how the money necessary for the proper equipment of the Dunoon Home for Mothers and Children was to be raised. The sum of £5,000 was required so that Airdmhor might be replete with the conveniences, comforts, and accommodation they desired. The right note had been struck by the genial treasurer of the Homes (Mr. Seymour) who reminded them that the giving up of money to the Home was war work of the very best kind. They must look after the children, for in many cases the mother would be the only guardian left, and she must be kept fit and taken care of. Never before was a Home like that at Dunoon so needed, and the guild women were in honour bound to help on to perfection what had been their own idea, so that this memorial to the Scottish Guild might be a worthy one. Thirteen new branches had been formed during the year, and another one had just been formed at Newtongrange in Section IV., making fourteen new branches for the year and a total of 197 altogether. The retiring secretary and treasurer were very anxious that the total should be brought up to 200 before they had to retire, and, although they had not quite got to that number they were very near. The Speakers' Classes which had been carried on in Scotland had all been successful, those in the larger towns naturally securing a larger membership. The Summer School opened

at Bridge of Allan on 1st July, and she hoped it would be largely patronised. As guild women, let them never forget that the object of their association was primarily to help the society to which they belonged. The co-operative movement was not made for them—they were elected to help it, to save it from becoming commercial only, from drifting altogether into a joint stock company for making profit. Let their aim be to elevate, never to degrade, to be loyal to their society not only in word but in deed. The movement was becoming very strong; let them help it to become also great, and let them remember that the silent, hard workers who did not appear on platforms were the great power behind the throne.

GREETINGS FROM OTHER GUILDS.

The secretary read a letter from the secretary of the English Guild, in which she expressed the regret of her executive that they were unable to send delegates on this occasion, as the executive had to meet the Central Education Committee on that date. She conveyed the friendly greetings of the English Guild women.

The president introduced Mrs. Saunderson and Mrs. Farr from the Irish Guild.

Mrs. Saunderson said she felt proud to be in the position of conveying the greetings of the Irish Guild women to the women of the Scottish Guild. In Ireland they were little more yet than a baby guild, and it was the Scottish Mother Guild that came over to Ireland and formed their guild. They were striving to take large strides in Ireland, and they hoped to grow. She felt that at this awful time guild women should show an example by being loyal to their stores and to their sisters. If they found that they could not get what they wanted in their store, do not let them go elsewhere for it, but fight until they got what they wanted introduced, and, if the price was high, until they got it reduced to suit the pockets of their poorer sisters.

The results of the voting for secretary, treasurer, and auditors were announced. Mrs. Lamont (St. Cuthbert's Western Branch) was elected secretary, and Mrs. Campbell (Kinning Park Central) was elected treasurer. For two auditors, Mrs. Thomson (Kinning Park) and Mr. Trainer (Hamilton Central) were elected.

It was agreed that the remuneration of the office-bearers remain as at present.

MATERNITY CENTRES

Mrs. Hill (Central Council) moved the following resolution:—"That we, as guild women, do all in our power to encourage the establishment of Infant Welfare Centres as a means of combating the great wastage of life in children from one to five years of age." She said the question was one which required immediate attention, but, so far as she knew, Motherwell was the only town in Scotland which had as yet done anything. Local authorities in Scotland had the power to establish such centres as were called for in the resolution, if their proposals received the sanction of the Local

Government Board. A Midwife Board had now been established for Scotland, and provision was made for the appointment on it of two practical midwives. On the English Board there were three lady members, and one was a fully trained nurse. Mrs. Hill quoted with approval an article entitled "A Great National Problem," which appeared in the *Scottish Co-operator* recently.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

LOYALTY.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. McLean (Council):—"That we, as guild women, do all in our power to further the cause of co-operation, and to make it our endeavour to popularise and extend the movement by our loyalty to our societies and by purchasing co-operative productions." She said the resolution was not a new one, but they found year by year that it was much needed. Why? They went forth with the opinion that it was only a pious resolution of the Women's Guild, and forgotten by the members when they went home. Was it to be so this year? Never in its history had the co-operative movement so great opportunities as at the present time. They asked in the resolution that they do all in their power to further the cause of co-operation and to popularise and extend the movement in every direction.

This was accepted by the president, on behalf of the Central Council, and unanimously agreed to.

WOMAN'S FUTURE AS CITIZEN AND CO-OPERATOR.

Mr. Wilkie (Scottish Section) read a paper, the subject of which was "Woman's Future as Citizen and Co-operator."

CONFERENCES WITH SECTIONS.

We have held two meetings with the sectional secretaries and presidents. These conferences are useful. Reports of work being done are submitted by the secretaries, and suggestions given for future work to be undertaken. A protest meeting of guild women from all over Scotland was held in November, when two resolutions were passed, one being moved by Mrs. McLean against the excessive cost of the very necessities of life, and seconded by Mrs. Watson (chairman of Beith School Board); the other against the proposed tax on co-operative dividends, moved by Mrs. Lamont, and seconded by Mrs. Gemmill.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD BALANCE SHEET, 1916-17.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance, as per last Report.....	72	3 3	By Audit Expenses	1	15 4
„ Grant from S C W.S. Ltd.	15	0 0	„ Grants to Sections	10	0 0
„ <i>Scottish Co-operator</i> Newspaper..	2	2 0	„ Line for Convalescent Home ..	1	10 0
„ Hamilton Baking Society.....	1	0 0	„ Secretary's Salary	3	15 0
„ Laundry Association	1	10 0	„ President's Salary	1	10 0
„ Branch Fees from last year	2	18 7	„ Treasurer's Salary	1	15 0
„ Badges	4	12 10	„ Central Council Expenses	19	18 7
„ Song Books.....	0	8 0	„ „ Delegations	9	2 0
„ Printing (Section VI.)	1	8 7	„ Postages	2	0 0
<i>Carried forward</i>	101	3 3	<i>Carried forward</i>	51	5 11

REPORT OF WOMEN'S GUILD.

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	101	3	3
By Printing (Section VII.)	2	15	0
" Interest	0	3	0
" " on Share in <i>Co-operator</i>	0	1	0
Newspaper Society	0	1	0

Audited—

JAMES TRAINER.
ELIZABETH THOMSON.

June, 1916.

£104 2 3

	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	51	5	11
To Printing	5	1	6
" Subscription to War Emergency Committee.....	0	5	0
" Gratuities	1	0	0
" Shares—			
Co-operative Conva-			
cent Homes	£3	0	0
Co-operative Newspaper Society Ltd.	1	6	4
" Cash in Bank	30	0	0
" Cash on hand	12	3	6

46 9 10

£104 2 3

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD BALANCE SHEET, 1916-17.

	£	s.	d.
<i>INCOME.</i>			
To Balance, as per last Report.....	46	9	10
" Grant from Co-operative Union.....	150	0	0
" " U.C.B.S. Ltd. ..	15	0	0
" Co-operative Laundry Association ..	1	10	0
" Branch Fees from last year.....	0	5	0
" Badges	3	4	0
" Song Books	1	15	2
" Printing (Section I.)	2	2	0
" " (Section III.) ..	4	6	0
" " (Section VI.).....	2	10	3
" " (Section VII.) ..	1	10	0
" Branch Subscriptions.....	60	13	4
" Bank Interest	0	7	5
" Interest— <i>Co-operator</i> Newspaper ..	0	1	0

Audited—

JAMES TRAINER.
ELIZABETH THOMSON.

February, 1917.

£289 14 0

	£	s.	d.
<i>EXPENDITURE.</i>			
By Audit Expenses	1	15	11
" Grants to Sections	57	0	0
" Line for Convalescent Home	1	10	0
" Ten Conference Subscriptions.	1	7	6
" Secretary's Salary ..	11	5	0
" President's Salary ..	4	10	0
" Treasurer's Salary ..	5	5	0
" Central Council's Expenses	47	7	4
" " Delegations	16	12	0
" Conferences with Sections	3	3	2
" Printing	56	18	10
" " Refunded to Section III.	0	4	0
" Postages	6	11	11
" Badges	3	9	0
" Special Meeting Expenses	2	12	1
" Two Delegates to English W.G. Congress.....	12	11	0
" One Delegate to Irish W. G. Congress	4	10	0
" Two Delegates to Summer School ..	4	10	0
" Subscription to Veterans' Association	1	1	0
" Subscription to National Vigilance Association.....	0	5	0
" Subscription to Women's Trades ..	0	5	0
" Subscription to Ambulance Centre ..	0	5	0
" Subscription to Women's Suffrage ..	0	5	0
" Delegate's Fee to U.S.C., per Miss Irwin	0	4	0
" Delegate's Fee to Housing Conference	0	2	0
" Two Delegates to Veterans' Association Meetings	0	16	7
" Delegate's Expenses to S.C. for Women's Trades	0	7	4
" Lecturer's Fee at Annual Meeting ..	1	1	0
" Text Books for Classes	0	5	4
" Gratuities	0	12	6
" Shares—			
Co-operative Conva-			
cent Homes Ltd	£3	0	0
Co-operative Newspaper Society Ltd.	1	7	4
" Cash in Bank	5	7	5
" Cash on hand	33	6	9

43 1 6

£289 14 0

J. LAMONT, General Secretary

III.—IRELAND.

The executive committee of the Irish Co-operative Women's Guild have pleasure in submitting annual report and financial statement for the year ending 1st March, 1917

The difficulties of carrying on our work owing to the war have increased during the past year. The outlook and situation here is entirely different from that of Great Britain. Conscription does not apply to Ireland, but during recent months the fact that we are engaged in a great world conflict has been brought home to us in many ways. Some of our members are sorrowing for those who have fallen in the fight, and others are passing through times of deepest anxiety. The tragedy of "Easter week" remotely and indirectly hampered our work. A certain amount of depression, inevitable and easily understood, has therefore overshadowed the activities of many of our branches.

We have, nevertheless, steadily adhered to the policy of breaking new ground in connection with our guild work, and during the past year branches have been formed at Portadown, Enniskillen, and Bangor. An additional branch has also been formed in Belfast, making a total of six branches at that centre. Our geographical conditions have always been a determining factor in connection with the expenses of propaganda work, and at the present time this difficulty is accentuated by the increased railway rates. It is our intention, however, to continue the work of endeavouring to establish branches of the guild at all centres where distributive societies are in existence.

Our ninth annual meeting was held at Belfast on 24th June, 1916. Mrs. A. C. Husband (president) occupied the chair, and the Scottish Guild was represented by Mrs. Hill, and the United Irishwomen by Miss Duffin. A letter from Miss Llewelyn Davies, expressing the fraternal greetings and good wishes of the Central Council of the English Women's Guild, regretted that they were unable to send a representative.

The following resolutions, all of which were passed unanimously, were included on the agenda :—

LOYALTY AND INCREASED TRADING.

"As the logical end and aim of co-operation is the elimination of competition and monopolies, and the production of all the necessities of life for use and not for profit, we urge increased loyalty to co-operative productions on the part of both management committees and individual members, in order that productive enterprises may be facilitated and an increasing control of the sources of supply secured."

CO-OPERATION AND PRICES.

"That this conference notes with the keenest anxiety the continued increases in the prices of commodities, and suggests that sub-committees of the guilds be appointed in the various localities to inquire into and compare prices and qualities of goods sold in co-operative and private traders'

shops, with a view to impress upon the societies the necessity for keeping down food prices in co-operative stores to the lowest possible level."

CHILD LABOUR AND EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

"That we feel very anxious concerning the welfare and education of the rising generation, owing to the laxity of the Government in allowing so much liberty since the war in regard to the employment of child labour, and press for stringent laws against any reduction of school age, either in town or country. That we heartily endorse the cry of the Workers' Educational Association in their demand for 'fair play for children,' and maintain that the rights of childhood will be weakened by any suggestion of reduction in school expenditure on the part of the authorities."

THE NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY.

"The executive of the Irish Co-operative Women's Guild note with satisfaction that a Government grant may now (under certain conditions) be obtained by municipalities and other bodies for the establishment of maternity and child welfare centres in Ireland, and urge all our branches to bring pressure to bear on public health authorities for the establishment of such centres in every available locality in Ireland."

THE FUTURE OF CO-OPERATION IN IRELAND.

"That we urge a forward movement on the part of co-operators of all shades of opinion to unite the existing co-operative forces in Ireland—distributive, productive, and agricultural, feeling assured that the future peace and prosperity and economic well-being of this country is possible of achievement by the spreading of the principles of co-operation."

CLASSES FOR WOMEN CO-OPERATORS.

We have again been able to take advantage of the facilities offered by the Co-operative Union, and classes have been formed at Belfast, Dublin, and Portadown. Same are proving exceedingly helpful to those who are anxious to improve their knowledge of the principles of co-operation, and we feel certain that the future will justify our efforts in this direction.

THE YOUNG CO-OPERATOR.

A class for juvenile co-operators has been successfully conducted in Belfast by Mrs. Johnson (Ballymacarrett No. 1 Branch), whilst Mrs. Girvan and other members of Ballymacarrett No. 2 Branch, also the officials of the Dublin branches, have been untiring in their efforts in connection with the Young Peoples' Circles. We are alive to the importance of captivating the imaginations of our young people by the gleam of what co-operative enterprise may accomplish in the solution of Ireland's problems.

WOMEN AND INCOME TAX.

In November last the executive drew up the following resolution on above question, which was passed by a number of our branches:—"That

this meeting of women co-operators expresses its emphatic protest against the suggested levy of income tax upon dividends on purchases, believing any such imposition to be both ethically and economically unsound, and, moreover, denies the right of any Government to introduce legislative proposals dealing with the question until women co-operators have the power to be directly represented in the legislative body."

FRATERNAL DELEGATIONS.

The general secretary represented the Irish Guild at the London Guild Congress, and Mrs. Saunderson and Mrs. Farr attended the Scottish Guild Congress at Edinburgh.

In addition to our educational work, many of our branches have been indefatigable in their efforts to bring comfort and happiness to our soldiers and sailors. It is impossible to report all that has been done in this way, but the record of service is creditable. In Belfast the various branches have from time to time entertained numbers of wounded soldiers, and many parcels of comforts have been despatched to the front.

We hope that on the cessation of hostilities the proven organising ability of women in the days of war will be allowed free scope in the important work of reconstruction that awaits us.

In conclusion, we desire to thank the Co-operative Union, the Belfast Society, and the United Co-operative Baking Society, for grants allowed us during the year.

The following is the financial statement for the year ending 1st March, 1917 :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance		34	13	10½	By Executive Meetings		12	15	2½
„ Grant—Co-operative Union		3	0	0	„ Opening and visiting Branches,				
„ „ U.C.B.S.		3	0	0	„ Meetings, &c.		9	12	4
„ „ Belfast Society		2	2	0	„ Annual Meeting		3	14	1
„ Proceeds—“Casey” Concert		10	0	0	„ Affiliations, I.C.C.A., &c.		4	16	8
„ „ „Burns” Concert		4	10	4	„ Literature		0	11	4
„ Literature		0	5	0	„ Printing and Stationery		10	15	3
„ Affiliation Fees		5	11	6	„ Wreath for Deceased Member		1	5	0
„ Interest, &c.		1	4	9	„ Donation to Red Cross Buffets		10	0	0
					„ Delegates to English and Scottish Congresses		8	2	5
					„ Secretary’s Salary		5	0	0
					„ Postage and Sundries		1	17	8½
					„ Balance—Belfast Society		13	12	2
					„ „ in Treasurer’s hands		9	5	3½
Audited—									
„ Wm. M. KNOX.									
		£91	7	5½			£91	7	5½

MARGARET T. MCCOUBREY, General Secretary.

VII.—THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE.

(See Report 52, page 250.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FOR 1914, 1915, AND 1916.

Country.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1914.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1915.	Subscriptions and Donations for 1916.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Argentina	0 12 0	1 16 0	1 4 0
Austria	180 0 0	....	....
Hungary	62 11 0	....	....
Belgium .....	....	....	....
Bulgaria	0 12 0	....	....
Canada	1 4 0	0 12 0	....
Cyprus	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Denmark	28 1 0	30 9 4	30 0 0
Finland	33 10 0	38 4 0	48 2 0
France	5 12 0	*151 0 3	77 19 0
Germany.....	302 19 0	....	....
India	15 0 0	....	....
Italy	20 16 0	18 7 8	16 14 0
Japan .....	....	*1 4 0	0 12 0
Netherlands	28 15 0	28 12 6	28 12 4
Norway	14 16 0	14 16 0	9 17 3
Roumania	9 8 0	2 7 5	....
Russia	14 4 0	16 0 5	27 10 6
Servia	10 0 0	10 0 0	....
Spain	6 4 0	5 10 11	5 0 0
Sweden	30 0 0	31 4 0	30 12 0
Switzerland	93 6 0	96 3 1	96 13 4
United Kingdom ..	670 14 0	674 19 2	670 16 6
United States	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Total	1529 10 0	£1122 12 9	1044 18 11

* Subscriptions, 1914 and 1915.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank, 1st January, 1916	1665	5	10	By Withdrawals, 31st December, 1916	1081	16	2
" Cash Deposits, 31st December, 1916	1170	15	5	" Bank Commission and Charges	0	16	2
" Interest.....	5	0	6	" Balance in Bank :—			
" " Deposit Account	57	7	10	Current Account	£376	12	5
				" Deposit Account :—			
				Co-operative Wholesale Soc... 1439	4	10	
					1815	17	3
	£2898	9	7				
					£2898	9	7

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Accounts owing :—				By Office Furniture—Estimated.....	50	0	0
Rent, Lighting, and Cleaning.....	38	11	3	" Subscriptions outstanding	20	18	0
Printing and Translation of				" Stock of Publications—Estimated	20	0	0
<i>Bulletin</i> —Estimated.....	48	13	5	" Cash in Bank	£1815	17	3
" Balance of Assets over Liabilities				" " Hand	12	0	0
					1827	17	3
					£1918	15	3

I have carefully examined the Books and Accounts of the International Co-operative Alliance for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and hereby certify the above statement as correct.

April, 1917.

N. H. COOPER,

PUBLIC AUDITOR.

Reports of the Sections and District Associations.

(1) IRELAND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTIONAL BOARD AND OF THE IRISH CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

(a) THE SECTIONAL BOARD.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting of the Congress year held at Dundalk on 1st July, viz. :—

Chairman Mr. W. J. McGuffin.

Treasurer..... Mr. H. Archer.

Secretary Mr. R. Fleming.

Representatives on Central Board—

Messrs. W. J. McGuffin and W. Gray.

Representative on United Board and Office Committee—

Mr. R. Fleming.

„ *Central Education Committee*.. Mr. H. Archer.

Editor of "Wheatsheaf" (Irish issue) 1916... Mr. W. G. Kane.

„ „ „ 1917... Mr. W. M. Knox.

Nine meetings have been held during the year with attendances as under, viz. :—

	Present.	Absent.
Mr. J. C. Adams	8	1
Mr. H. Archer	6	3
Mr. W. Gray	8	1
Mr. W. G. Kane	8	1
Mr. W. J. McGuffin	9	—
Mr. J. Palmer	9	—
Mr. R. Fleming	9	—

Monthly reports, by means of which the Board has kept in close touch with the work of propaganda, organising, and auditing work carried on by him have been regularly submitted by the secretary. As pointed out in last annual report, an increasing proportion of the secretary's time continues to be taken up by auditing, leaving his services less freely available for other duties. The auditing is considered a desirable branch of sectional work, as it enables a close supervision to be kept on the affairs of new societies. In order that it may be efficiently maintained, the Board has made arrangements to secure the part-time services of Mr. W. M. Knox,

educational secretary of the Belfast Society and secretary of the Conference Association, who is an experienced accountant. In the capacity of a public auditor under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, the secretary has during the year conducted audits of the following societies' accounts, viz. :—Armagh, Ballynena, City of Cork, Coalisland, Dublin Industrial, Dublin University, Dundalk, Drumaness, Drumreaney, Enniskillen, Greenore, Inchicore, Larne, Lucan, Middletown, Newtownards, Ochilmore, Queenstown, Renvyle, Sligo, Ulster, Warrenpoint, Rosslare Harbour, South County Dublin. Ninety-one audits in all were carried out. The fees are credited to the Union funds. The total amount received in 1916 was £139, as compared with £148 in 1915, and £73 in 1914.

During the year (1916) five distributive societies were registered, viz., Drumreaney, Dungannon, Foynes, Tralee, and Clanwilliam. The first three have already started in business—Drumreaney in July, Foynes in October, and Dungannon in February (1917). The Dublin Consumers' Co-operative Society, referred to in last report as having been registered, also commenced business during the year, in July. Two societies have lapsed—Millbrook and Ulster. At Millbrook it was found impossible to continue owing to commercial stress resultant from the war; the shares were paid in full to the members by a local employer of labour who purposes to carry on the business until the return of normal times. In the latter case the society got into financial difficulties, and it was deemed advisable to wind up its affairs. A special society for the supply of electrical goods has been registered with headquarters in Dublin.

In addition to places above-mentioned, meetings, interviews, and propaganda work, with a view to the formation of societies, have been carried on during the year at the following places, viz. :—Athlone, Clonmel, Longford, Roscommon, Waterford, Limerick, Clifden, Drogheda, Cappoquin, Broadstone, and Wicklow. At each of the first five named the situation is very promising; provisional committees have been appointed to carry on the work of organisation. All over the country considerable interest has been and continues to be manifested in co-operative trading methods; this, no doubt, is largely due to the high prices of commodities at present prevailing. In response to pressing requests from members and non-members, the following societies have opened branches at the places named, all of which give abundant promise of success, viz. :—Ballymena and Harryville at Randalstown, Enniskillen Society at Ballinamallard, and Belfast Society at Bangor.

Society or public meetings have been addressed during the year by members of the Board at the following places, viz. :—Armagh, Ballinamallard, Ballymena, Bangor, Castlecaulfield, Cork, Dublin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Inchicore, Keady, Larne, Newtownards, Randalstown, Sligo, and Tipperary.

A proposal to amalgamate the Ballymena and Harryville Co-operative Society and the Ballymena Farmers' Co-operative Society was under con-

sideration. A joint committee was formed and held a number of meetings, but the scheme proved abortive.

The secretary attended as representative of the Board at the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society's annual meeting, held in Dublin on 14th December.

The following matters, so far as they affect the interests of societies in the section, received much earnest consideration and attention, viz.:—Food prices, sugar supplies, income tax, increased tillage, and coal purchases.

The conferences on social and economic questions, referred to in last report as having been inaugurated under the auspices of the University College, Cork, were resumed during the past winter on a more extended scale, the cities of Waterford and Limerick being included. Owing to the success of and the interest in these conferences it has been decided to place the work on a more permanent basis by the formation of a University and Labour Education Committee, with Prof. T. A. Smiddy, F.C.S., as hon. secretary.

A proposal to conduct a co-operative summer school in the section during 1917, under the auspices of the Central Education Committee, has had to be abandoned owing to high cost of living and expense of travelling.

Subjoined is a statement of Board expenses charged to the Union during 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance in hand	10	0 0	By Executive Meetings	27	2 5
„ Cash from Central Office.....	56	15 5	„ Conferences and Deputations....	29	13 0
			„ Balance in hand	10	0 0
	466	15 5		466	15 5

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

(Northern and Southern Districts).

Under its constitution the affairs of the association are controlled by the Sectional Board.

The annual joint conference was held in the Co-operative Hall, Belfast, on 26th August. The annual report and cash statement for 1915 were considered and adopted, and a resolution to support the proposed summer school, 1917, was unanimously carried.

Southern District conferences were held at Dublin (on the invitation of Rosslare Society) on 1st April, and at Queenstown on 30th September. At the former Mr. F. Hall, adviser of studies, read his paper on "The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices," and at the latter Mr. Palmer, Sectional Board, read Mr. Hall's Congress paper on "The Economic Results of the War and their effect on the Co-operative Movement." Good discussions ensued on both occasions.

In the Northern District conferences were held at Belfast on 25th March, when Mr. Hall read his paper on "The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices," and at Enniskillen on 14th October, when Mr. W. J. McGuffin read Mr. H. J. May's paper on "Income Tax." Long dis-

(2) MIDLAND SECTION.

The attendances of the members of the Board have been as below :—

	Present.		Absent.		Possible.
Mr. G. Bastard.....	11	....	1	....	12
Mr. J. Butcher.....	10	....	*2	....	12
Mr. S. Butler	12	....	—	....	12
Mr. W. J. Douse	12	....	—	....	12
Mr. G. Harris	12	....	—	....	12
Mr. A. H. Jones	12	....	—	....	12
Mr. J. Langley.....	12	....	—	....	12
Mr. W. Millerchip	11	....	1	....	12
Mr. J. Millington	12	....	—	....	12
Mr. C. A. W. Saxton	12	....	—	....	12
Mr. J. G. Shacklock.....	11	....	*1	....	12

* Sick.

Honorary Members.

Mr. E. L. Griffiths. Mr. D. McInnes. Mr. S. Redfern.
Mr. W. W. Smith. Mr. G. Woodhouse.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting, held at Stratford-on-Avon, on 1st July, 1916:—

Chairman : Mr. J. Langley.

Treasurer : Mr. W. J. Douse. *Secretary* : Mr. Chas. A. W. Saxton.

Representatives—

On the United Board.....Messrs. J. Langley and W. Millerchip.

„ *Office Committee*..... Mr. Millerchip.

„ *Educational Committee* Mr. Millington.

„ *Joint Propaganda Committee* Mr. Saxton.

On Sectional Choral Association Committee..... Mr. Shacklock.

„ *Educational Association Committee*.... Mr. Bastard.

„ *Propaganda Committee*Messrs. Bastard, Douse,
Millington, and Saxton.

It is with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret that we present for your consideration our annual report ; pleasure because of the remarkable

progress the movement is making during this very critical period of the nation's history and regret that this terrible world-war is still raging.

The following is the summary of the position at the end of 1916 :—

	1915.		1916.
No. of Societies	213	..	Figures for 1916
No. of Members	445,770	..	will be inserted
Share Capital	£5,862,464	..	after Congress in
Sales	£13,295,720	..	Report issued to
Net Surplus.....	£1,530,081	..	Societies.
Reserve Fund	£401,948	..	

CONFERENCES.

During the past year nine sectional conferences have been held.

On Saturday, 29th April, a special conference was held at Leicester to consider the attitude of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés towards the recently formed conciliation boards. There was a large attendance of delegates to hear Mr. W. Millerchip (Sectional Board) introduce the subject and move the following resolution :—

That this conference of representatives of societies in the Midland Section are of opinion that, having set up machinery by the establishment of district and national conciliation boards, which have the approval of Congress and the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, declare that in our opinion all matters relative to conditions of labour should be referred to these boards and their decisions adhered to. Failing the acceptance of such by the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, action be taken by the societies on the following lines :—That a representative committee be formed for the purpose of organising the whole of the societies for defending their interests.

After an animated discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

It was also decided to elect a committee by ballot.

THE ECONOMIC RESULTS OF THE WAR AND THEIR EFFECT UPON THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

Mr. F. Hall's Congress paper was read at three conferences held on the same day, viz., at Coventry, Newark, and Burton-on-Trent. There was a good attendance of delegates at each meeting, including members of the Sectional Board which provided the chairman and reader of paper in each case.

At the request of the Board this paper has been discussed by each conference district during the year.

CO-OPERATIVE BANKING.

A special sectional conference was held at Leicester, on 28th October, to consider a paper prepared and read by Mr. T. G. Davies (deputy manager,

Co-operative Wholesale Society Bank). Here, again, there was a good attendance of officials and committee-men, and valuable information was given by Mr. Davies in answer to questions.

INCOME TAX.

On 25th November three conferences were held, viz., at Birmingham, Lincoln, and Nottingham, to consider proposals made in a paper prepared by Mr. H. J. May, at the request of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Mr. May attended and read the paper himself at Birmingham; Messrs. Butler and Harris doing duty at Lincoln and Nottingham respectively. Nearly every society was represented by general and educational committees as well as branches of women's and men's guilds. Great enthusiasm was shown and determination expressed to fight against any attempt to impose exceptional taxation on co-operative societies.

A resolution of protest was carried unanimously at each meeting and same has been forwarded, together with a copy of Mr. May's paper, to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to each Member of Parliament in the section.

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE.

The last conference was held at Derby on 24th February, 1917, when Mr. S. P. Leah read his paper, "Co-operative Insurance, Collective and Industrial."

This conference was held for the purpose of bringing home to those societies that have not adopted the collective scheme the value of the same, also with a view to the greater development of the industrial side.

A well-attended meeting thoroughly discussed the various points raised by Mr. Leah, and a resolution was carried urging the Co-operative Insurance Society to push forward this section of their work by all means in their power.

PROPAGANDA.

The Sectional Propaganda Committee have been persevering in their endeavours to bring home to the people the value of our movement, particularly since the commencement of the war, being well satisfied that there never was a time when such an opportunity presented itself as now of demonstrating the value of collective effort.

Two propaganda booklets, "Co-operation" and "After the War is Over," originally intended for use in the section, were prepared by a member of the committee (Mr. F. H. Bruff) and have now been adopted by the Publications Committee for general use.

Mr. E. Griffiths' services have been utilised in various parts of the section, both in towns and villages.

Most active work has been done in the Shropshire and Mid-Wales District, viz., at Aberystwyth, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Craven Arms, Whitchurch, Wem, Clee Hill, Madeley, Malpas, Wellington, Welshpool, and St.

Martin's. In other districts very effective work has been done in numerous rural areas near Kettering and Long Eaton, where an outdoor summer campaign was carried out in conjunction with the educational committees of the two societies named; also at West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tamworth and District, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Newark, Southwell, Gosberton, Louth, Billingboro', Loughborough, Rural District of Leicestershire, Oldbury, Sharnal, and Campden. Public meetings have followed the canvass of Mr. Griffiths in each instance, many of them being crowded and enthusiastic, giving encouragement for future progress after the war.

EXTENSION OF THE SECTION.

With the consent of the sections concerned the following societies, at their own request and approval of Lancaster Congress, were transferred to the Midland Section, viz.:—Welshpool, Chirk Green, Oswestry, Aberystwyth, Newtown, and St. Martin's.

On the other hand Scunthorpe has been transferred to the North-Western Section.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS

In accordance with the decision of Congress, hours and wages boards have been formed in each district, and hopes are entertained that they will form a useful purpose in preventing disputes.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Sectional Board has kept in touch by representation on the executive of the Educational and Choral associations with the educational work in the section, the full report appearing under their respective headings.

OVERLAPPING.

Several cases of overlapping have been dealt with during the past year, and in some cases by the fixing of boundaries; this applies more particularly to the northern and eastern portions of the section. An attempt to come to an amicable arrangement in another district has so far failed, but here it is hoped that an agreement may be come to in the near future by amalgamation.

We have once again to pay tribute to the district secretaries and associations for the work accomplished in their various districts apart from the services of the secretaries on the Sectional Propaganda Committee.

The women's and men's guilds, also the educational committees attached to our societies have rendered valuable assistance in educational and propaganda work.

CONVALESCENT FUND.

This fund is extending its work, and we hope to report in the near future that all societies in the section are affiliated.

The committee, in presenting their third annual report and statement of accounts desire to congratulate the members on the amount of work

accomplished under difficult conditions during the year 1916. It is very gratifying that in spite of the unusual position, attributable to the war, that the committee have been able, with few exceptions, to obtain admission for patients in convalescent homes in different parts of the country. Our thanks are due to the staff at the several homes for the kindly and sympathetic interest given to our members while under their care, which has helped to make their stay at the homes a pleasure as well as assisting greatly in bringing them back to that healthy condition which has enabled them to resume their ordinary occupation.

Many letters have been received from convalescents expressing their gratitude to the "fund" for the assistance which made it possible for them to receive the benefits derived from change of air and scene, such as is obtained through membership of the "fund."

The committee paid a visit to the Nottingham Convalescent Home at Skegness and were well satisfied with all the arrangements made for the comfort and happiness of the patients. It was suggested that a new bath might be provided, this has been done and a grant of £6 was made towards expenses of fixing same.

An appeal was received from the committee of the Devonshire Hospital, Buxton, for grant to help them to meet the deficiency on their Building Fund, and £20 was voted at the annual meeting of members of the "fund."

Six societies have joined the "fund" during the year and one lapsed membership, making the present total 86, and the committee appeal to those societies not yet affiliated to become associated with this truly co-operative effort for helping our convalescent members after, in many cases, long periods of sickness.

Subscriptions and donations amounted to £1,238. 7s., being an increase of £221. 18s. 1d., and the contributions of convalescents £66. 7s. 6d. Grants amounting to £604. 19s. 5d. have been made to 274 co-operators or their children, made up as follows:—150 men, 117 women, and 7 children, and the number of weeks residence at the homes 804. Two children have resided at homes for a lengthy period, twelve weeks in each case, and have received much benefit.

A show card has been prepared for hanging up in societies' places of business calling attention to the benefits of the "fund," so that members may be made more fully acquainted with the same and know where to apply for benefit.

The committee express their gratitude to the Leicester Society for providing a room for holding the monthly and annual meetings, also for their hospitality.

The thanks of the committee are also due to the secretaries of societies for their promptness in sending on particulars of cases, which is now most important in view of the reduced postal service, so as to avoid delay as much as possible in making arrangements for admission to the various homes.

The committee, in concluding their report, expressed the hope that ere another year had passed this terrible war would be ended and peace reign once more, when the benefits of the Midland Co-operative Convalescent Fund would be further extended and appreciated.

J. LANGLEY, Chairman.

CHAS. A. W. SAXTON, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTHAMPTON AND EARLS BARTON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Rogers (chairman), Northampton.	Mr. J. C. Frisby, Long Buckby.
„ G. T. James (secretary), Moulton.	„ J. C. Cooper, Earls Barton.
„ C. Richardson, Northampton.	„ T. E. Barnes, Daventry.
„ A. C. Minney, Yardley Hastings.	„ W. Mellows, Harpole.

We have again to report progress with the work of our district amid the stress of this awful war. The societies show increases both in membership and trade. Four conferences have been held and well attended. The first at Moulton, on 25th March, 1916, and the second at Harpole, on 24th June, 1916, when Professor Hall's Congress paper "Control of Raw Materials and Prices," created good discussions.

The third conference was held at Long Buckby, on 4th November, 1916, when the subject discussed was "The Amalgamation and Consolidation of Societies." The fourth was a united one, with the Kettering and Wellingborough District, on 27th January, 1917, when Mr. W. J. Rogers (president of the association) opened a discussion on "Social and Economic Problems confronting Co-operators." Mr. H. Clayson (president of the Kettering and Wellingborough District) presided.

Propaganda work has been done in the villages, and some have now a regular supply of goods from the Northampton and other societies in the neighbourhood.

The Long Buckby Society shows a large increase in sales, and reports that the first year's working of the Ashmore Farm, mentioned in our last report, far exceeds their expectations. The society has just bought another farm of 166 acres, known as the Grange Farm. The Cinema run by the society shows a sound investment, and the plant has been depreciated to the extent of £120. Brington and Cogenhoe and other village societies are still going on with good results, although hampered by having long distances to cart their goods.

The Harpole Society has increased in its membership, and is supplying members from the villages of Flore and Heyford, anticipating opening branches when labour is procurable.

The Managers' Association during the year have held several useful meetings at Northampton in regard to business and supplies.

The Men's and Women's Guilds and the Educational Committee have still put forth their useful efforts, and the Northampton Choral Association has rendered valuable help.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society Depôt is still increasing in trade, under the direction of Messrs. Baker and Pearson, and the audit department under Mr. W. Kay.

The Northampton Society again report large increase in trade and membership, the trade showing an increase of upwards of £20,000, and the membership a gain of one thousand in the year.

Early in the past year the Blakesley Society was wound up by voluntary liquidation, its trade having declined to £15 per week. The committee of the Northampton Society deciding that the work in this district should still be carried on, rented the premises lately occupied by the Blakesley Society, made an active canvass of the village and the surrounding districts (covering a wide area of small agricultural villages); held propaganda meetings during the summer months in a number of villages, addressed by the president (Mr. W. Rogers) and others, the meetings being well attended. The results of these efforts have been very gratifying; the membership has increased, the society having upwards of 200 members in the district; the weekly trade averaging about £100.

The Earls Barton Society has taken up the individual deposit accounts with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and is making steady progress. The society has lost, by death, Mr. Thomas Mash, who served the society faithfully for many years as secretary.

The Daventry Society's sales show an increase over the previous year of £7,564, and members joined 194. The membership has reached 1,156. The society has paid in excess profits, £189. 10s. and £278. 8s. The Crown and Cushion, a fully licensed house, owned by the society, was closed on 26th August, 1916, and the society received £601. 18s. as compensation.

We again thank the Northampton Society for use of room for meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1915	0	9 0	By Attendances-Executive Meetings	3	15 7
„ Grant from Co-operative Union ..	9	11 3	„ „ District Conferences ..	5	2 3½
„ Subscriptions from Societies	3	15 0	„ General Printing and Stationery .	0	19 2
			„ Postages, &c.....	0	7 9½
			„ Hire of room	0	7 0
			„ Delegate to Congress	3	0 0
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer		
			31st Dec., 1916	0	8 5
Audited—					
GEORGE FAULKNER.					
	£13	15 3		£13	15 3

G. T. JAMES, Secretary.

No. 2.—KETTERING AND WELLINGBOROUGH.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. Clayson (president), Wellingboro'.	Mr. C. Coe, Rothwell.
„ A. J. Foulds (secretary), Kettering.	„ J. Catlin, Wollaston.
„ C. Stokes, Burton Latimer.	„ J. Langley, Kettering.
„ F. Miller, Raunds.	„ G. Marlow, Desborough.

We are pleased to record another successful year of co-operative activity in our district.

In spite of the difficulties of supplies and labour, we can congratulate ourselves on a large increase of members and trade during the past year.

We have held four executive meetings and five conferences during the period covered by this report.

The first conference was a united one with the Northampton and Earls Barton District, and was held at Wellingborough, on Saturday, 15th January, 1916, when Mr. T. Goodwin (Co-operative Wholesale Society Banking Department) read a very valuable and instructive paper on "Finance and the War."

The second was held at Burton Latimer, on Saturday, 29th April, when a very interesting paper was read by Mr. C. Stokes on "After War Problems."

The third was held at Raunds on Saturday, 29th July, when the subject for discussion was a paper by Mr. A. Groom (son of the late Mr. C. Groom, of Raunds) on "Co-operation and Internationalism after the War."

The fourth was a special conference, called by special request of societies, to consider the question of taxation of members' dividends. This was held at Higham Ferrers on Saturday, 16th September. The subject was introduced by Mr. S. Booth (manager of the Wellingborough Society) in a very clear and lucid manner.

A resolution protesting against the unfair attempt to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to subject the savings made through co-operative trading to imperial taxation was unanimously adopted, and copies of the resolution were sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the local member of Parliament.

The fifth conference was held at Rushden on Saturday, 11th November, when Mr. W. J. Cure (manager of the Rushden Society) read by request Professor Hall's Congress paper on "The Economic Results of the War." A resolution protesting against the continual rise in food prices, and calling upon the Government to take action to arrest the upward tendency, was unanimously adopted, and copies of the same were sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, President of the Board of Trade, and the three local members of Parliament.

All the conferences have been well attended, and keen interest taken in the subjects submitted for discussion.

We have to congratulate societies on their response to the circular issued by the Executive, for the formation of a Hours and Wages Board for the district. The first meeting was held at Kettering on Saturday, 25th November, when officers were elected and other necessary business was transacted. Our hope is that their work may be light; and in the discharge of those duties we have every confidence that their object will be to cultivate that good feeling and understanding between employer and employes that should find expression in the co-operative movement.

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of our esteemed friend and colleague Mr. T. Panther, of Kettering, who passed away after a short illness, on Sunday, 6th August. His connection with the district has remained unbroken since its inception some 32 years ago, and during that time he has held the position of both secretary and president, and he was always an ardent and devoted worker for its success. His loss was keenly felt in the district, and as a member of the Executive his presence will be sadly missed.

We are pleased to report the formation of a very successful Men's Guild in connection with the Kettering societies, and, to celebrate the jubilee of the Kettering Industrial Society, a series of propaganda meetings were held during the summer months in 23 villages in the district. We have every reason to believe that good results attended the effort put forth.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1916.....	21	15 8	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	7	7 4
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	20	15 8	„ „ District Conferences..	9	6 0
„ Subscriptions from Societies	12	12 0	„ „ Sectional Conferences	0	8 1
„ Bank Interest	0	11 4	„ Deputations to Societies	0	4 9
			„ General Printing and Stationery..	2	0 9½
			„ Postages	1	4 6
			„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
			„ Annual report, &c.	1	14 0
			„ Hire of Car.....	1	9 6
			„ Scrutineers' Expenses	0	10 3
			„ Delegate to Congress	3	0 0
			„ Sundries	0	12 6
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
			31st Dec., 1916	25	16 11½
£55 14 8			£55 14 8		

Audited—
C. STOKES.

A. J. FOULDS, Secretary.

No. 3.—LEICESTER.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. Clark (president), Leicester.	Mr. S. Kemp, Leicester.
" W. E. Pepper (secretary), Equity Boot Society.	" J. Gillett, Groby.
" J. Griffen, Anchor Education Committee.	" C. Grimes, Hinckley.
" A. Smith, Mountsorrel Education Committee.	" H. Biggs, Enderby.
" S. J. Mellor, Leicester Education Committee.	" H. Elliott, Gt. Wigston.
" J. Hickman, Anchor Boot Society.	" J. Hunt, Huncote.
" S. H. Whiley, Leicester Small Holders.	" F. Boulter, Wigston Hosiers.
" J. Jordan, Barwell.	" C. W. Brown, Coalville.
" H. Cramphorn, Self-Help Boot Soc.	" J. Timson, Sperope Boot Soc.
" E. Wills, Leicester Printers' Society.	" T. O. Unwin, Shepshed.
" E. Marston, Croft.	" J. Abbott, Gt. Wigston Education Committee.
	" E. Bent, Morning Star Sundries Society.
	Mrs. Widdowson, Leicester Women's Guild.

The annual report and balance sheet for the year 1916, submitted herewith, shows an adverse balance of 6s.

During the year conferences have been held at Leicester, Barwell, Huncote, and Hinckley, and three committee meetings have been held at Leicester.

The first conference was a joint one with the Coventry District, held under the auspices of the Morning Star Sundries Society, on 8th January, when the Rev. S. Spencer read a paper entitled "Co-operation *versus* Individualism," showing the great advantage of co-operation to the people generally.

The second was held at Barwell, on 29th April, when Mr. W. W. Hill, B.Sc., read a paper entitled "Co-operation and Democracy; the War and After," in which he foreshadowed some of the problems which will confront us after the war, and urged the co-operation of the democracy as the best means for dealing with the questions which will arise.

The third was held at Huncote on 15th July, when a good discussion took place on the report of Mr. H. Clark's impressions of the Lancaster Congress. This being our annual meeting, the report and balance sheet was adopted and the officers were elected.

The fourth was held at Hinckley on 4th November, Mr. S. Kemp reading his paper "Excess Profits Duty and Income Tax, and how Co-operators are Affected by Them," which brought out a very useful discussion.

We are pleased to state that reports to hand show co-operation continues to flourish in this district. The trade of the Leicester Society amounted during 1916 to £808,805, being an increase of £117,592 on the year 1915; Coalville Society shows a trade of £268,109, this being an increase of £52,484; Shepshed, £61,608, an increase of £5,300; Enderby, £32,693, an increase of £4,751; Gt. Wigston sales show an increase of about £10,000, and, aided by the possession of their farm, have up to the present been enabled to sell milk at 4d. per quart, and show a profit on the sale; Huncote, Barwell,

and in fact all reports to hand show increased trade being done by societies in the district. During the year Melton Mowbray Society has opened a new branch at Oakham, which is proving a great success; this branch is now doing a trade of £130 per week.

During the year a case arose in which there was danger of the Coalville and Barwell societies overlapping, but by a round-table conference between the two committees an understanding was arrived at, and it was mutually agreed that Barwell Society should supply the villages of Peckleton and Kirkby Mallory, and, to celebrate this settlement, tea meetings were held at both villages on Saturday, 17th June, and addresses were given by Mr. G. Bastard, of the Central Board.

The various productive societies in the district have all been exceedingly busy during the year, and have proved their worth to societies by helping them to get supplies during a very trying period, thus justifying their existence and strengthening their position in the movement.

The education committees of the productive societies have during the year banded themselves together into an association, with the object of doing some joint propaganda work.

The education committees of the distributive societies have been busy doing useful work. During the past winter two new children's classes for the study of co-operation have been formed by the Education Committee of the Leicester Society, and are proving very successful; this committee has also in addition to classes and lectures, held 13 propaganda meetings in different parts of the town and county during the year, when, in addition to good music being provided, addresses have been delivered with good results to large audiences. During the year Coalville Society has decided to have a separate education committee, this branch of their work having been done previously by the general committee.

Our Women's Guilds are displaying a healthy interest in helping along our movement, and are doing their best to spread co-operation.

During the present winter a Men's Guild has been started at Leicester, and bids fair to prove a valuable addition to our movement.

The Leicester District Hours and Wages Board has been formed during the year, and held its first meeting on 16th December. Happily, the services of the Board have not been called for up to the present.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand 1st Jan., 1916.....	3	19 10	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	4	15 8
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	9	18 11	„ „ District Conferences	7	18 2
„ Subscriptions from Societies	14	16 0	„ Deputations to Societies	0	9 1
„ Cash due to Treasurer 31st Dec.,			„ General Printing and Stationery..	6	19 3
1916	0	6 0	„ Postages	1	17 6
Audited—			„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
S. KEMP.			„ Congress Delegate Expenses	3	14 4
SIDNEY H. WHILEY.			„ Special Conference at Shrewsbury	1	1 9
			„ Auditors	0	5 0
	£29	0 9		£29	0 9

W. E. PEPPER, Secretary.

NO. 4.—COVENTRY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. Hilton (president), Lockhurst Lane.	Mr. A. Roberts, Nuneaton.
„ James Clay (secretary), Coventry.	„ W. H. Clarke, Atherstone.
„ J. Carter, Rugby.	„ W. E. Wood, Coventry.
„ W. H. Dexter, Rugby.	„ G. A. Wickes, Lockhurst Lane.
	„ W. H. Cowley, Lockhurst Lane.

The various societies in the district have much reason to congratulate themselves on the success of their efforts during the most trying season they have ever been called upon to pass through. The difficulties that existed during the previous years of the war have been accentuated rather than decreased, and the systematic depletion of male labour throughout the district, combined with the demands of an ever-increasing membership, have made the task of catering a more trying one than ever. In spite of these, however, and in face of lowering dividends, the hold of the movement does not seem to have lessened, and in most instances the spread of the co-operative principle has gone on with many good results to those concerned.

Four conferences have been held during the year since our last report, with good attendances and keen interest in most of the subjects placed before them. On 25th March, at Lockhurst Lane, Mr. G. A. Wickes (president) gave his paper on "The Mysterious Forces of our Movement." At Rugby, on 12th August, Mr. W. F. Hardman, of that society, gave his paper on "Co-operation and its Future." On 16th December, at Coventry, Mr. T. J. Harris (Coventry) introduced "Income Tax and Excess Profits"; and on 24th February, the annual joint conference with the Leicester District Association, was held at Lockhurst Lane, when Mr. W. E. Wood (chairman of the Coventry Educational Committee) read his paper on "A Consideration of Future Aspects." All these were productive of good discussion and valuable educative results to those attending.

In addition, four meetings of the Executive were held on 8th April. A visit was paid to the Stockton Society, and a propaganda meeting held in the evening, which was fully attended. An attempt was also made by the Executive to arrange a meeting at Southam, but no response was obtained from that society, and this had to be abandoned.

The various Women's Guilds and Educational Committees in the district have put in an immense amount of work, and the Men's Guild Branch at Coventry has held several conferences with workers' associations in the town and neighbourhood.

Reports from the various societies show that, in spite of the many barriers to progress that war conditions impose, they are still pushing forward, and that it only needs a resumption to something like normal conditions for the lessons learned during these strenuous days to bear much fruit.

Atherstone Society, though badly hit by the call for men in the army, is gallantly fighting forward and gradually making progress.

The great activity in munition industries in the Birmingham district has found its reflex in enormous progress, both in membership and trade, with nearly all our societies, and only the difficulty in maintaining supplies sufficient to meet the demand has prevented us from making still greater progress.

During the year under review, special attention has been devoted, in conjunction with the Sectional Propaganda Committee, to a survey of the whole district, with the gratifying result that in only one or two areas is co-operation still behind. In making this statement, we have not lost sight of the fact that in practically every locality there is yet plenty of room for further extension of our principles, and, as far as is possible under present circumstances, every effort is being made to bring co-operation to the knowledge of *all* the people. Perhaps, the worst served area is the extreme southern part of Staffordshire and North Worcestershire, where the boundaries of the Birmingham and Stafford districts meet; and it is evident that some drastic alteration is necessary in the district boundaries before co-operation can really come into its own. West Bromwich, for instance, whose borders meet the confines of the city of Birmingham, is not in the Birmingham district, while Malvern, more than thirty miles away, is included. Despite the fact that several special round-table conferences have been held in order to further co-operation in this area, it is regrettable that, in consequence of the difficulties mentioned, we have little progress to record. Special attention has also been devoted to the Redditch area, which is served by Alcester Society, and while good work is being done, greater progress is really limited here by want of supplies. However, we mean to see that as soon as the war is over that not a single village or hamlet is without the opportunity to embrace co-operation, and the ability to share in its benefits. Either by store or motor, every single family must be reached by our movement.

The event of the year has been the opening of the Birmingham Society's new central premises. Of extreme beauty, combined with the utmost business utility, these buildings really make a home for co-operation in Birmingham; placing the society, too, in its rightful position as the leading business house in Birmingham, and reflecting credit on architect, builder, and committee alike. Willing service on the part of the employés, "with a determination on the part of the committee to supply promptly all their members' needs, will place Birmingham, ere long, in the first rank, maybe in the first place, among co-operative societies in the Kingdom. The turnover for 1916 exceeded a million sterling.

The special propaganda effort has occupied the attention of the Executive at each of its seven meetings, and will continue to take a foremost place in our work in the future.

Four conferences have been held with beneficial discussions at each. The first at Ten Acres and Stirchley, when Mr. Saxton read Mr. Fred Hall's paper on "The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials"; the second at Worcester, when Mr. S. P. Leah gave his paper on "Industrial Life Assur-

ance"; the third at Alcester, when Mr. T. Barber read Mr. Fred Hall's Congress paper "The Economic Results of the War"; and the fourth at Soho, when Mr. T. Perry gave a paper entitled "Criticisms and Suggestions on Co-operative Education."

The movement in the district has shown itself to be the true friend of the people during the war, as it undoubtedly will continue to do when the war is over.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	11	5 5	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	7	19 6
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	11	19 3	„ „ District Conferences	4	8 3
„ Subscriptions from Societies	15	4 0	„ „ Sectional Conferences	1	0 3
			„ Deputations to Societies	2	4 0
			„ General Printing and Stationery..	5	6 0
			„ Postages	1	9 8
			„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
			„ Delegate to Congress.....	3	2 0
			„ Balance in hand of Secretary, 1st January, 1917.....	10	19 0
	£38	8 8		£38	8 8

Audited—
JOSEPH MILLINGTON.

FRANK H. BRUFF, Hon. Secretary.

No. 6.—STAFFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. James Grantham (president), Cannock.	Mr. W. Evans, Burton-on-Trent.
„ H. Sanders (secretary), Tamworth.	„ H. Hilliard, Walsall.
„ Joseph Clewlow, Stafford.	„ A. Fulwood, Wolverhampton.
„ W. J. Harris, Wednesbury.	„ A. Campbell, Rugeley.

The societies in this district have made good progress, notwithstanding the many difficulties with which they have had to contend, such as the uncertainty and irregular delivery of goods, the depletion of staff, and the substitution of less efficient labour in every department. Large increases in membership are recorded everywhere, and the increases in sales have been very great, much being due to increased prices. Four societies in the district are now working on a strictly cash system, Burton-on-Trent, Walsall, Tamworth, and Mayfield. The Tamworth Society, which has for 20 years farmed 280 acres of land, has recently purchased another farm of 134 acres at a cost of £3,660; the profit on the 280 acres for last year amounted to £1,400. The most gratifying phase of co-operation in this district has been the manner in which societies have worked their business on the lowest possible margin, and thus kept down the price of many commodities in their respective localities, and the general public as well as members have reaped the benefit resulting from this policy.

We have held four conferences and four committee meetings during this year. The first conference was held at Walsall on 22nd April, when Mr. W. Abbotts, J.P. (president of the Walsall Society) read Professor Hall's

paper "Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices." There was an attendance of 90 delegates, and a good discussion resulted.

The second conference was at Rugeley on 29th July, when Mr. Leah (Co-operative Insurance Society) read his paper "Industrial Life Insurance." The attendance was good, and the subject was well discussed, and it is hoped business will follow.

The third conference was held jointly with the Shropshire and Mid-Wales District, at Shrewsbury, on 23rd September, when a very able and instructive paper was read by Mr. Theodore Armstrong (Co-operative Wholesale Society), "What and How Should Co-operators Advertise." This proved a very good conference, and no doubt the idea of a joint conference will be further tried when the time is opportune.

The fourth was held at West Bromwich, under the auspices of the Wednesbury Society, when Mr. J. H. R. Laidler (manager of the Stafford Society) read his paper entitled "Co-operators and Income Tax," and this thorny subject was well discussed by those present. The resolution at the end of Mr. May's paper was unanimously passed, and the district secretary was instructed to forward a copy to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and all the M.P.'s for Staffordshire. After this conference a public meeting was held, and addresses were delivered by speakers from the Co-operative Union and District Executive. The Wednesbury Society is making a special effort to re-establish co-operation in West Bromwich, and has had an uphill fight since it was requested by the Sectional Board to take over this district. It has held a previous meeting this year at West Bromwich: also in other parts of the district. It has now four branches at West Bromwich, and its membership and trade has made great progress during 1916. Members of the District Executive have paid several visits there, and rendered the committee every assistance.

We have reverted to the idea of having a business talk with the committee of the inviting society after the Executive meetings. The first was with the Mayfield Society, and this resulted in starting a boot and shoe department—sales and repairs. The second was at Burton-on-Trent, and a discussion here proved a very useful one. The next was at Cannock, the Cannock Society's Committee inviting the committees of Walsall and Rugby to join in the conference, at which Mr. Evans opened a very useful discussion on "Labour in Societies during the War, Delivery of Goods, &c.," which brought out many good points. The fourth of these was at Walsall, when invitations were extended to the Tipton, Wednesbury, and Wolverhampton societies, and the chairmen of other societies. Mr. Abbotts, J.P., presided, and opened a discussion on "The Movement and Agriculture." The district secretary gave an interesting account of the Tamworth Society's farming experience. It was decided that delegates should report to their respective committees, and be prepared at a future meeting to consider the formation of a district agricultural society. It was also decided to form a district management committees' association.

We have to report that speakers have been supplied for public meetings by the Executive, and we hope and look forward with confidence to a great co-operative development in this district, when peace is established and our men again return to civilian life.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	7	2 11	By Attendances Executive Meetings	10	4 0
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	28	12 2	„ „ District Conferences..	11	11 7
„ Subscriptions from Societies	14	16 6	„ „ Sectional Conferences	1	4 9
			„ Deputations to Societies.....	5	12 1
			„ General Printing and Stationery.	1	13 9
			„ Postages.....	1	7 0
			„ Special Speaker at Conference at		
			Shrewsbury—Rail fare	0	9 1
			„ Delegate to Congress.....	2	10 0
			„ Special Propaganda Meeting at		
			Shrewsbury	0	17 0
			„ Hours and Wages—Delegate from		
			District	0	7 0
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,		
			1st January, 1917.....	14	15 4
				£50	11 7

Audited—
W. J. HARRIS.

HENRY SANDERS, Secretary.

No. 7.—DERBY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. George Wilson (president), Derby.	Mr. S. Page, Ilkeston.
„ Thos. Leaman (secretary), Ripley.	„ Geo. Parr, Ripley.
„ F. Levick, Derby Printers.	„ F. Clayton, Codnor Park.
„ W. Wyld, Tibshelf.	„ John Bailey, Long Eaton.
„ T. H. Edinborough, Long Eaton	„ A. Horspool, Langley Mill.
Printers.	

The third year of the great world-war finds the societies in this district still making real and solid progress.

Three conferences have been held during the year. The first was held at Ilkeston on 29th April; this was a joint conference with the district Women's Guild; there was a large attendance of delegates. "Sources of Supply and Increased Trade" was the subject discussed. Mrs. M. E. Cottrell's paper was read by Mr. Riley (Ilkeston).

The second conference took place at the Institute, Cresswell, under the auspices of the Bolsover Society, when Mr. Millerchip (Central Board) introduced the question of "The Relation of the A.U.C.E. to the Movement." He maintained that all those who became co-operative employes should be trade-unionists, in order to hold up the employes outside of the movement, or, if they are neglected, the result would be that wages would go down; he advocated conciliation boards to prevent strikes within the movement.

The third conference was held at Derby on 9th December. Mr. S. Butler (Central Board) read a paper prepared by Mr. A. Pickup, on "The Rise in Prices of Commodities and the action the Co-operative Movement

should take with regard thereto." At the close of the discussion the following resolution was carried unanimously :—

That we record our just indignation at the apathy and tardy way the Government have dealt with shortage of food supplies and the consequent high prices, and herewith call upon the Government to deal urgently and effectively with the same."

This resolution to be sent to the Press, the Prime Minister, and local members of Parliament.

In addition to conferences held, the Executive convened a propaganda meeting at Brassington, a small society in the Peak of Derbyshire. Mr. S. Butler attended for the Union. The attendance at the meeting was small; short addresses were given by Mr. Butler and others. On our return journey some of us felt somewhat discouraged with the apparent failure of our efforts. The small society held its annual meeting on the 10th of January, 1917, when Mr. Butler was again invited to attend and give an address to the members, which he did, and gives a very cheering report of his second visit. The Vicar occupied the chair, everyone was in good spirits, and he has every reason to believe that the movement will extend its usefulness in this part of the Peak of Derbyshire. They have secured the village schoolmaster as secretary; he is young and very enthusiastic in the work.

Tibshelf Society again reports steady progress, the loyalty of its members have brought their purchases up to £1. 1s. per member per week; they have so far escaped the Excess Profits Tax. The Codnor Park Society has had a very successful year; increases in members and trade, and is in a sound financial position.

Langley Mill is also making splendid progress. Ilkeston Society has had a fairly good year, with large increases, owing chiefly to alteration of values, its latest department, milk, has exceeded all expectations, with over £2,000 in sales, besides steadying the retail price in the town at 5d. per quart, the other dealers trying to get 6d. per quart. The society is able to show 2s. net profit on the turnover. The bakery has been restored and remodelled after the fire in December, 1915.

Long Eaton Society has made very large increases in membership, sales, and capital; average weekly purchases increased from 11s. 9d. to 15s. per member. The Board has recently been engaged in trying to bring about an amalgamation with the Stapleford and Sandiacre Society; sub-committees have been appointed from both Boards to discuss details, and the whole matter will be presented to the members shortly. This society shows a very substantial increase on its Grange and Home Farms.

The Ripley Society has had an exceptionally good year, and like all other societies, has found it very difficult to carry on through shortage of labour. The Educational Committee has been particularly active, having held a large number of meetings and Co-operative Wholesale Society Lantern Lectures.

Derby Society's sales for 1916 amounted to the sum of £1,076,000, and, as the chairman told the members at the February quarterly meeting, we

had been fighting to reach the million, but now we had achieved our object, we were not proud of the fact, the increased takings being the result of inflated prices caused by the war.

The meeting was held for the first time in the society's New Central Hall, Exchange Street, which is on the third storey of their new central premises, and will accommodate about 1,200 people. It is voted as the finest hall in the borough, and should be much in demand for concerts, parties, dancing, &c. On this floor also are the educational room and class rooms. The ground and first floors of the building are being fitted up for the sale of drapery and boots, whilst a well-established tobacco, stationery, and fancy goods department has been open in one portion of the premises for more than a year. It is hoped to have the building complete and open for business before the autumn of 1917. The building with its fronts in Exchange and East Streets, composed entirely of stone, has been erected by the society's own works department, and the architects and directors of the society are to be congratulated on the design.

The two printing societies, Derby and Long Eaton, are both doing well, but find it difficult to cope with their trade, through losing so many of their staff.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	10	0 6	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	5	2 5
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	14	13 3	„ „ District Conferences	5	11 6
„ Subscriptions from Societies	5	11 0	„ „ Sectional Conferences	0	19 9
			„ „ Women's Guild fares	1	2 11
			„ Deputations to Societies	4	2 8
			„ General Printing and Stationery.	1	0 3½
			„ Postages	0	15 2
			„ Secretary's Salary	2	0 0
			„ Delegate to Congress	3	10 0
			„ Auditing	0	2 6
			„ Balance in hand of Treasurer, 31st December, 1916	5	17 6½
£30 4 9			£30 4 9		

Audited—

F. LEVICK.

G. WILSON.

T. LEAMAN, Secretary.

NO. 8.—NOTTINGHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. G. Shacklock, J.P. (president), East Kirkby, Notts.	Mr. Frank Hays, Codnor Park and Selston Bakery.
„ S. H. Brown (secretary), Notts.	„ J. Collins.
„ H. D. Neate (editor of <i>Record</i>), Keyworth.	„ A. Wylds, J.P., Langley Mill.
„ Wm. Blood, Ruddington.	„ G. A. Arnold, Southwell.

RETAIL SOCIETIES.

The difficulty of ascertaining what proportion of sales is due to increased prices makes the measurement of success uncertain, but we do not hesitate to say that nearly all the societies in this district have made substantial increase of trade as indeed they have in membership. The Radcliffe Society

is recovering its position, and the Southwell Society gives every sign of recovery from the set-back of two years ago. Bulwell early in the year opened a fine suite of new offices, and established cold storage for the butchery department. In November the Nottingham Society opened its new central premises, which are a credit to the city, and much appreciated by the members.

The Kirkby Manufacturers gratefully acknowledge the help of many retail societies, enabling them to report sales of £60,649 for the year, and justifying the recent extension of premises and plant. Success is written large on the face of this business, the stage of adventure is passed.

The Nottingham Printers hold their own, even after paying interest on share capital; this is so far satisfactory, and we hope they will win through to better times.

EXECUTIVE.

Seven meetings have been held during the year, and one special meeting of delegates, at which the societies of the district were pledged to pay at least the Congress scale to females to all girls and women who are engaged as substitutes for men who have joined the army.

Four conferences have been held, at which the attendance has been quite up to the average.

On 25th March Mr. T. Goodwin (Co-operative Wholesale Society bank) read his excellent paper on "Finance and the War." He laid down a firm understanding that societies could help in the national crisis most, and with greatest safety to their own funds, by allowing the Co-operative Wholesale Society to make their War Loan investments.

At East Kirkby, on 24th June, the secretary introduced for discussion the subject of "Co-operation and the Crowd." Following the idea suggested by Mr. W. R. Rae, at the Portsmouth Congress, Mr. S. H. Brown impressed the necessity for the crowd mind in the co-operative movement.

A comprehensive report of Lancaster Congress was given by Mr. G. A. Arnold, at Radcliffe, on 19th August, special reference was made to Professor Hall's paper.

On 18th November, at Cinder Hill, Mr. A. Judd (manager, Nottingham Society) read an excellent paper worth the attention of the Co-operative Union on "The Income Tax Menace." He protested against societies paying the unjust taxes imposed under Schedules "A" and "B," and warned co-operators to be up and fight strenuously against the propositions which are sure to be made by private traders in the near future.

We have, under the ægis of the Propaganda Board, held one outdoor meeting at Radcliffe and indoor meetings at Radcliffe and Southwell. Mr. Griffiths served the cause well at each place, and we are indebted to Messrs. Douse, Saxton, and Shacklock.

During the year we have lost our late treasurer, Mr. R. Ely, of Pleasley; also the services of our editor of *Record*, Mr. H. D. Neate; and we wish success to Mr. E. Forsyth, who has taken up the duties.

"RECORD" CASH ACCOUNT.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Advertisements	29	0	10	By Due to Treasurer	0	2	6½
„ Sales	18	17	4	„ Nottingham Printers for <i>Records</i> ..	46	13	1
„ Printers' dividend	0	6	3	„ Carriage	0	5	1
„ Balance due to Treasurer	0	1	0½	„ Postage	0	18	1
				„ Stationery	0	6	8
	£48	5	5½		£48	5	5½

"RECORD" BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Owing to Treasurer	0	1	0½	By Outstanding Accounts—			
„ Balance	23	8	2½	For Advertisements	15	2	6
				For Sales	8	6	9
Audited—							
ALFRED WYLD.	£23	9	3		£23	9	3
THOMAS WAGG.							

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	16	7	10	By Attendances—Executive Meetings	11	9	11
„ Grant from Co-operative Union..	17	13	1	„ „ District Conferences..	8	16	2
„ Subscriptions from Societies	12	9	0	„ „ Sectional Conferences	0	2	2
				„ Delegate to Congress	3	2	11
				„ Deputations to Societies	3	0	0
				„ General Printing and Stationery.	4	1	8½
				„ Postages	1	6	10½
				„ Officers' Salaries	6	10	0
				„ Part payment of Conference Tea.	2	5	0
				„ Subscription to Women's Guild..	1	1	0
				„ Fares for Women's Guild to Con-			
				ferences	2	6	5
				„ Fares and fees of delegate to Pro-			
				paganda meeting at Shrewsbury	1	1	9
				„ Balance in hand of Treasurer,			
				1st January, 1916.....	1	6	0
Audited—							
ALFRED WYLD.	£46	9	11		£46	9	11
THOMAS WAGG.							

S. H. BROWN, Secretary.

No. 9.—LINCOLN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Coulson (chairman), Lincoln.	Mr. C. Stow, Boston.
„ E. Hart (secretary), Grimsby.	„ W. T. Johnson, Newark.
„ J. Bocoock, Peterborough.	„ W. Parker, Retford.
„ F. H. Brumpton, Gainsborough.	„ W. T. Cadmore, Spalding.
„ A. Cordiner, Grimsby.	„ D. McInnes, Lincoln.
„ P. Robinson, Grantham.	

In submitting the report of this district for the past year, the third issued since the terrible world-war began, but which we trust and pray will be the last under these awful conditions, the great outstanding feature is the extraordinary inrush of new members reported by so many societies, and the surprising records of sales, revealing increases of great magnitude, in which country branches are participating equally with the town store. In a large measure this may, of course, be attributed to the regrettable increase in price of every commodity, but after making due allowance for this

extortion, it must be conceded that co-operation has taken deep root in unexpected places, the result of long and persistent missionary work, coupled with the necessity for the economic handling of the weekly income, which has not always increased in the same ratio. This large influx of new members may, if wisely handled, become the advance guard of still greater accessions of strength in the near future, as the possibilities of the movement become more vitalised to them by actual experience, and thus giving the sure and certain hope of still greater expansion in all departments, visions of an industrial commonwealth are thereby made more realistic.

The difficulties of management have been accentuated month by month, and the question of staffing the various departments has become a serious matter. The women have, however, come forward nobly, boldly tackling work wherever they were needed, with very satisfactory results, and, with one exception, the whole of the societies in this district are able to show material increases. Lincoln, Peterborough, Grimsby, Gainsborough, and Grantham being particularly noteworthy, aggregating more than £150,000. The unfortunate exception is Skegness. This society is bravely struggling under adverse circumstances, as the town and district has suffered severely owing to the continued Zeppelin raids, and, being almost entirely dependent upon visitors, has consequently been hit very heavily. The receipts have unfortunately fallen off to a serious extent, crippling its usefulness; this is the more to be regretted as the society is the youngest in the district, and, therefore, the least able to bear any serious loss.

Building developments throughout the district have been held up owing to war restrictions, and there will be much leeway to make up when happier times again come along, and we are able to rejoice over peace regained, and the return of the lads spared to us.

Three executive meetings have been held and four conferences, as under :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1916.			
26th Feb..	Boston....	Education for Co-operative Committees.	Mr. T. Stow.
20th May..	Lincoln....	Co-operation and the Milk Supply.	Mr. E. Jackson, C.W.S.
29th July..	Grantham .	To Consider and to Decide upon Propaganda Programme.	Mr. D. McInnes, C.W.S.
23rd Sept. .	Grimsby ...	Influence of Co-operation on Prices: How it may be Strengthened.	Mr. A. Bearfield.

These conferences were all well attended, and the discussion fully maintained; the consideration of the milk supply being specially helpful. Mr. Jackson, the head of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Agricultural Depart-

tion of the district. Any doubts previously entertained are now dispelled and complete justification afforded.

By resolution of the 1916 Congress, the transfer of societies from the North-Western and Western sections to the Midland Section was secured. This has presented possibilities of greater uniformity of action, and has removed many disadvantages which, from a district point of view, were inevitable by societies being situated in three sections.

Four conferences have been held during the year, as follows :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1916.			
24th June .	Aberystwyth	Educational Work as an Aid to Business Progress.	Mr. E. Griffiths
23rd Sept. .	Shrewsbury.	Co-operative Advertising	Mr. T. Armstrong.
30th Dec... 1917.	Whitchurch.	The Economic Results of the War.	Mr. E. Griffiths.
24th March	Oswestry...	Co-operative Societies and Income Tax.	Mr A. H. Jones.

Throughout the conferences have been well attended, and much good has accrued to societies as a result of the subjects discussed.

In the direction of propaganda work there has been perfect collaboration between societies and the district executive. As a result of concentrated effort, a somewhat extensive campaign has been operated throughout the district, the cost being borne by the Joint Propaganda Committee, societies, and the Special District Fund.

Enthusiastic meetings have been held at St. Martin's, Ludlow, Clee Hill, Madeley, Whitchurch, Aberystwyth, Chirk, Shrewsbury, Craven Arms, Welshpool, Pontesbury, Wem, Minsterley, and Ironbridge. Without exception every meeting has been a huge success, and it is computed that the total attendance at the various functions arranged numbers 10,600 persons. At all meetings collections on behalf of charitable and patriotic funds have been made, and no less a sum than £67. 9s. 1d. has been duly handed over to the institutions concerned.

With a view to establishing the utility or otherwise of such work great care has been exercised in registering the results of the campaign, in so far as can be ascertained. The direct results to societies have been minutely tabulated, and the statistics compiled indisputably prove the effectiveness of organised propaganda.

In this respect the results exceed those of the previous year, and it is pleasurable to record the fact that, by diligent propaganda, the movement has made appreciable headway in the agricultural area of Shropshire and Mid-Wales.

The publication of the Association's *Quarterly Review* has proved a complete success. For the first year of publication the income exceeds the

expenditure to the extent of £1. 2s. 3d. It has been found desirable to enlarge the issues for 1917. As a factor in assisting to maintain interest and enthusiasm in the official life of societies in the district the *Review* serves a most useful purpose.

During the year the district secretary has rendered valuable assistance to societies in connection with the compilation of "excess profits returns."

Special efforts have also been put forward in the direction of furthering educational activities in the district. Societies' committees have been interviewed, and considerable development may be expected when normal conditions are restored.

In accordance with the Congress resolution, a district hours and wages board has been elected. The value of such machinery has been demonstrated in no uncertain manner. Immediately on election the board was called upon to consider a revised scale of wages, submitted to all societies in the area by the A.U.C.E. Many situations quite foreign to industrial areas were presented, but, notwithstanding the existence of certain inequalities frequently associated with rural conditions, after four meetings, an agreement was arrived at which was satisfactory to all concerned.

The position of societies generally is good, large increases in trade and membership being recorded.

A noteworthy feature in the direction of business extension is the acquiring by the Shrewsbury Society of the assets of the late Cleve Hill Society. The venture is being attended with considerable success, and the efforts put forward on behalf of co-operators in this district are highly commendable.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	18	1	3	By Attendances, Executive Meetings	12	18	2
" Grant from Co-operative Union..	150	16	8	" District Conferences..	18	1	10
" Subscriptions from Societies	17	17	0	" Sectional Conferences	5	10	4
" Societies' Contributions towards				" Deputations to Societies	11	7	7
Propaganda Expenses	21	0	0	" General Printing and Stationery.	6	15	6
" Stafford District: Share of Joint				" Postages	1	11	0
Conference Expenses	1	4	4	" Aberystwyth Conference Expenses	2	0	0
				" Congress Delegate	3	10	0
Audited—				" Photograph of Executive.....	0	10	6
W. F. HUNT.				" Hours & Wages Board Expenses	0	12	6
				" Propaganda Meetings (18)	135	17	1
				" Balance in hand of Treasurer,			
				31st December, 1916	10	4	9
	£208	19	3		£208	19	3

QUARTERLY CO-OPERATIVE "REVIEW" ACCOUNT, 1916.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Advertisements	24	0	0	By Cost of Printing and General			
" Sale of Blocks	1	3	9	Production	23	0	6
" Printers' Dividend	0	6	0	" Postage and Carriage	1	7	0
					24	7	6
Audited—				" Balance	1	2	3
W. F. HUNT.					£25	9	9
	£25	9	9				

EDWIN GRIFFITHS, Secretary.

MIDLAND SECTION CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES' ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Hackett (president), Bournville.	Mr. Towns, Derby.
„ A. Wyld (treasurer), Eastwood, Notts.	„ T. Giles, Walsall.
Miss C. A. Woolley (hon. sec.), Leicester.	Mrs. Nightingale, Derby.
Mr. W. Andrews, Coventry.	Mr. E. Harrott, Leicester.
Mrs. F. Stein, Small Heath.	„ S. Cox, Ilkeston.
Mr. G. Stanton, South Wigston.	Mrs. Unsworth, Derby.
	Mr. G. Bastard, Leicester.

Again it is our duty and pleasure to present a report of the year's work of the association. The year has been one of trouble to all countries, but your committee have endeavoured to make the conferences a source of help and guidance to all our members. We have not relaxed our efforts to bring our best before you, and have arranged subjects suitable for discussion, with that end in view.

We have tried to impress upon you the importance of children's classes, for we must look upon them as the co-operators of the future.

Committees have been interviewed and assistance given in helping them to form education committees, and to increase educational work locally.

Circulars, and a paper by Professor Hall, have been sent to every society and guild in the section, with a view to increasing their interest in the association and educational work generally, and we hope inquiries will come from all, either asking advice or giving suggestions for the good of the association, which the executive are always pleased to receive.

The need for educational work was never greater than it is to-day. The movement is growing in membership and we, as an association, must do our best in educating them to become real co-operators.

Four committee meetings have been held, and one special with the Education Committee of the Co-operative Union, when advice and help was given for the furtherance of the work of our association.

Your executive have under consideration the question of an Educational Week-end School, in connection with one of the quarterly conferences, as soon as circumstances permit.

Four conferences, all well attended, have been held during the year. The annual meeting was held at Lincoln on Saturday, 25th March, 1916, under the auspices of the Lincoln Education Committee. There was a good attendance of delegates. The report and balance sheet was adopted unanimously.

Mr. John Cox (Ilkeston) was again elected to be hon. auditor for the ensuing year.

The result of the election of committee was declared. Mr. T. Burt (member, Lincoln Education Committee) read his paper, "Co-operation and Education," which was full of interesting points.

Our second conference was held under the auspices of the Birmingham Education Committee, and was well attended by delegates from all parts of the section. Minutes of annual meeting were read and adopted.

Mrs. Stein (secretary, Birmingham Educational Committee) read the paper she had prepared on "The Linking up of our Educational Work to a definite end." She emphasised the principal needs which led to the formation of the Central Education Committee, the need for system and co-ordinated educational work, also the need for specialised study in co-operative subjects to meet the movement's new needs.

Our third conference was held at the invitation of the Coalville Society. At this conference two resolutions were moved by Northampton and Grimsby Educational Committees *re* district representation and alterations of Rule 3 to read, after the word "body," "that only one member from each of nine districts be permitted to sit on the committee." The Northampton resolution was referred back to the executive, papers to be prepared and sent out to all subscribing societies.

Mr. George Stanton (Wigston Educational Committee) then read his paper on "What Co-operators want from Education."

Our fourth conference was held under the auspices of the Mansfield Education Committee, and was felt by all to be one of the best and most helpful we have had.

Mr. Naylor (chairman, Mansfield and Sutton Education Committee) read Mr. Rae's Congress paper, entitled "Co-operative Education and the Programme of the Central Education Committee." The writer refers to the method and scope of the schemes of education outlined in the programme.

In the programme we seek to give information and to create an atmosphere. In closing, Mr. Rae says: "Let us ask ourselves one question—What do we seek to hand over to posterity? A huge mercantile concern, successful, but soulless, caring only for the dividend benefit of the present, or an institution throbbing with hope and longing for industrial freedom, ready to brave all, deny all, suffer all to gain it? Your answer to that question will determine your attitude to education. At present the co-operative movement is making money, but our work—yours and mine—is to make men."

Mr. C. B. Towns has been our representative on the Central Education Committee of the Co-operative Union, and given good reports of the work that is being directed from Holyoake House.

District conferences have been represented by members of the committee during the past year.

Eight societies have joined the association during the year. Your committee welcome them into their ranks, and hope that good work may be done by working in unison, and would be pleased to give assistance if desired.

We are always pleased to receive letters from committees who are organising propaganda meetings and who would like speakers from the association.

We thank the *Co-operative News* for their kind assistance in making our conferences known, and also to those representatives who have given such good reports.

Again we would ask committees to push the sale of the *Co-operative News*, *Millgate Monthly*, *Our Circle*, and also the new magazine issued by the Co-operative Union, *The Co-operative Educator*. This is a paper full of interesting news, and we would ask education committees to take it for their reading-rooms, and to make it known among the Men's and Women's Guilds and members generally, so that the sale of it may far exceed the expectations of the Central Education Committee.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To District No. 1.....		1	5	6	By Committee Meetings—				
„ District No. 2.....		5	5	0	1916—13th May—Leicester	1	18	5	
„ District No. 3.....		7	15	0	22nd July—Nottingham....	1	14	6	
„ District No. 4.....		1	13	6	7th Oct.—Leicester	1	13	4	
„ District No. 5.....		7	14	0	21st Oct.—Birmingham....	2	6	0	
„ District No. 6.....		1	16	6	1917—20th Jan.—Ten Acres	4	1	1	
„ District No. 7.....		9	15	6	„ Conferences—				
„ District No. 8.....		4	10	6	1916—25th Mar.—Lincoln	2	0	8	
„ District No. 9.....		3	1	0	24th June—Birmingham ..	1	3	2	
Midland A.U.C.E.		0	5	0	16th Sept.—Coalville	2	0	8	
Dividend—Derby Printers		0	1	8	9th Dec.—Mansfield	2	7	7	
Income for the year		43	3	2	„ Co-op. Union Representative (fare) ..	6	18	4	
Balance, March, 1916		20	2	2	„ Printing and Stationery	11	4	6	
					„ Deputations	1	3	6	
					„ Postage, Secretary	3	15	0	
					„ „ Treasurer	0	6	10	
					„ „ „ Secretary	2	0	0	
					„ Expenditure for the year.....	44	13	7	
					„ Balance	18	11	9	

SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.		
	1916.	1917.
Societies.....	55	54
Women's Guilds..	22	24
Men's Guilds.....	1	1
A.U.C.E.	1	1
	79	80

	£	s.	d.
Coventry Guild	0	2	6
Hucknall Torkard	1	1	0
Lincoln	0	10	6
Ripley	0	2	6
Kettering Union Boot	0	5	0
Northants Productive	0	5	0
	£2	6	6

	£	s.	d.
Balance	18	11	9
Paid in advance	2	6	6

Present balance with
Treasurer£20 18 3

Audited—

JOHN COX.

£63 5 4

£63 5 4

C. A. WOOLLEY, Secretary.

CO-OPERATIVE CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Seth Wood (president), Derby.	Mr. C. Marshall, Long	} Joint Hon. Secretaries.
„ J. Wright (vice-president), Anne- sley Woodhouse.	Eaton,	
„ J. Shelton (treasurer), Ilkeston.	„ T. H. Edinborough, Long Eaton,	

The committee have never had greater pleasure in presenting a report of their year's work than that which records the activities of 1916 season. Faced with great difficulties in this time of national stress, they yet decided upon a continuance of their efforts in the musical education of members of societies and the public generally throughout the Midland Section.

The Junior Festival, so successful at Long Eaton in 1915, was held in the same district last year—at Stapleford, on 6th May—mainly on account of its approximately central position in view of the difficulties of railway travelling. The adjudicator was Mr. Walter J. Bunney, F.R.C.O., of Leicester, and the entries were most satisfactory, viz., 6 choirs and 74 soloists. The greatest praise was given the committee on account of the high standard of musical efficiency attained in both solo and chorus work.

Many obstacles beset the arrangements for the Senior Festival, the greatest being the question of balance of parts in mixed choirs, as there were fewer men than ever. After consulting with all subscribing societies on the possibility of including a class for ladies' choirs, this course was decided upon with most gratifying results. The total entries were 8 mixed-voice choirs, 10 ladies' choirs, 20 soprano, 12 contralto, 19 tenor, and 16 bass. With Dr. W. G. McNaught, of London, as judge, the Festival at Ilkeston, on 14th October, ranked as the best ever held, not only from a high musical standpoint, but because of the excellent audiences and the public appreciation of singing so different in character from that usually heard. The astonishment of Dr. McNaught at the high-class music rendered, and the almost technically perfect standard reached by the choirs, was a fine compliment, not only to the committee, but, coming from such a source, was also highest praise for the whole of the societies comprising the association.

SETH WOOD, President.

C. MARSHALL,

THOMAS H. EDINBOROUGH, } Joint
Hon. Secretaries.

(3) NORTHERN SECTION.

The attendance of the members at the ordinary meetings held during the past year has been as follows :—

	Present.	Absent.	Possible.
Mr. J. C. Aiston	11	1	12
„ G. Bedford	12	—	12
„ J. Davison	10	2	12
„ S. Galbraith	9	3	12
„ W. R. Rae	9	3	12
„ W. Scott	12	—	12
„ J. Murdoch	1	11	12

In each case where members have been absent the causes have been beyond their control, and have been mainly due to the peculiar conditions created by the war. In the case of Mr. Murdoch, the cause of absence is entirely due to his being engaged in important war work.

HON. MEMBERS.

Mr. H. R. Bailey.

Mr. W. Crooks.

At the meeting held on 1st July, 1916, the following appointments were made :—

Chairman of the Section Mr. G. Bedford.

Representatives on the—

United Board Messrs. J. Davison and S. Galbraith.

Educational Committee Mr. W. R. Rae.

Sectional Office Committee—

Messrs. Bedford, Aiston, Murdoch and Scott.

We are represented on the Parliamentary Committee by Mr. S. Galbraith, and on the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators by Mr. J. Davison.

The year 1916 will be a memorable one in the history of our country. It marked a stage in the development of the great world-war, when the true import of the titanic struggle began to dawn upon the public consciousness. Our long immunity from the direct and immediate consequences of war had engendered a feeling of security which it was difficult to seriously disturb. It is not too much to say, however, that the events of 1916 had the effect of bringing about such a transformation in our mental attitude and outlook as to compel us to accept and set about adapting ourselves

to conditions of life and restrictions upon our liberty, which a few years ago would have been regarded as well-nigh impossible. Co-operative societies have had to face many new and serious difficulties. High prices, in many cases due to the policy of the profiteer of making the country's difficulty his opportunity for personal gain; the serious depletion of labour by the military authorities; the trouble in obtaining certain commodities and the difficulties of transport; have all conspired to make the task of management an arduous one.

Societies in the section have, however, risen to the occasion and acquitted themselves well, and co-operation stands out more prominently in the North to-day than at any previous period in its history. The vitality of a movement is very often tested by its powers of adaptation to changing conditions. The co-operative movement has stood this test, and all that is required from its adherents, in order that its power may be consolidated and its influence extended, is a more intense loyalty to its principles.

WINDY NOOK TRAGEDY FUND.

The amount paid during the year to the widow and children of the late J. Patterson was £61. 19s. This amount includes a special grant of £4 and a payment of 15s. for medical attendance.

The amount standing to the credit of this fund at 31st December, 1916, was £730. 12s. 3d.

GILSLAND CONVALESCENT HOME LIMITED.

This home was in occupation by the military as an auxiliary hospital for a period of sixteen months, and therefore not available for use by co-operators. When vacated by the military, certain repairs, cleaning, and re-decorating had to be done, which delayed re-opening for about six weeks beyond the usual time, and as a consequence the numbers in residence during the early months of the year fell below the normal. From August until the closing of the home at the end of November, however, the number in residence was quite equal to former years. A net deficiency for the year of £186. 19s. 5½d. is shown.

ALSTON SOCIETY.

This society, it will be remembered, owing to a variety of causes, became involved in serious financial difficulties, and it was found necessary to write down its share capital 10s. in the £1. In October, 1915, an appeal was issued to societies in the section for assistance. This appeal met with a ready response, and the sum subscribed amounted to £395. 7s. 11d. As a result the share capital of those members who during these last two years have given the society a reasonable amount of trade, has now been written up 5s. in the £1; a cheque for £149. 6s. 3d. being sent to the society in September, 1916, for that purpose. The amount required in writing up the second 5s. will be considerably in excess of this sum, several accounts being held over for consideration, but a sufficient balance remains in hand to meet the situation, the amount at 31st December, 1916, being £255. 2s. 2d.

The society itself is making excellent progress in membership and trade, and at their last quarterly meeting the members unanimously passed a resolution expressing their heartfelt thanks to the Northern societies for their timely assistance.

SECTIONAL EXHIBITION.

No exhibition has been held in the section, owing to the decision of the Exhibitions Committee, in 1915, to abandon the holding of exhibitions during the period of the war.

CONCILIATION BOARD.

The Conciliation Board for this section has been formed, and up to the present, two cases have come before it for decision.

DISTRICT HOURS AND WAGES BOARD.

In accordance with the resolution of the Lancaster Congress, societies in the section have been asked to agree to the establishment of district hours and wages boards. The replies to a circular on the matter sent out to all societies in the section revealed considerable differences in opinion—first, as to the necessity for such boards; second, as to the number of members which should compose the board; and third, as to the mode of election. It would appear that special conferences may be necessary in each district before this question can be finally settled, but the matter is being brought up at the annual sectional conference.

SUBSTITUTED FEMALE LABOUR.

This was one of the problems created for societies by the war, and presented features which rendered a satisfactory solution very difficult. Negotiations extended over a long period, and for a considerable time no apparent progress was made. The first three conferences called to consider the position failed to arrive at any arrangement. Further meetings between the joint committee appointed for the purpose of conducting negotiations and the Northern district council of the A.U.C.E. were held, and eventually amended proposals were submitted to and accepted by a further conference of societies in the section on 7th October.

The decision of the conference was not quite unanimous, but the great preponderance of opinion was that the settlement arrived at embodied the maximum of concession obtainable, and was in the main a reasonable one. It is perhaps to be expected that cases will arise where the regulations may appear to operate inequitably, but if these are approached in the right spirit there seems no reason to anticipate serious friction, and loyalty to the decision of the majority of the societies in the section is confidently anticipated.

1918 CONGRESS.

In the ordinary course of things, the Congress of 1918 is due to be held in the Northern Section. The year 1918, however, marks the Jubilee of the Co-operative Congress, and a desire was expressed by the United Board

that the meeting should be held in the Manchester district, the cradle of the co-operative movement as we know it. After careful consideration the Sectional Board decided to recommend agreement to this course, on the clear understanding that in 1919 the Congress would be held in this section. This recommendation was put before a sectional conference held in Newcastle, on 3rd February, 1917, and approved.

FEDERATED BAKERIES.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the first step towards securing closer union among societies must be along the lines of federation for special purposes. In 1915, a group of societies took over the bakery of the West Stanley Society, and the result has been an unqualified success. In 1916, another group of societies federated for the purpose of acquiring the bakery of the Bedlington Society and the Northumberland Co-operative Bakeries Limited is in being, having in common with the Durham Federation as one of the features of its constitution equal representation and voting power by each society, irrespective of the number of members or capital invested. This venture is also proving a success. Steps are now being taken with some promise of success to form another group for the purpose of acquiring the bakeries of the Blaydon and West Wylam and Prudhoe societies. There can be no doubt that we are here proceeding on right lines, because it is to a wider application of the spirit which makes these federations possible, and in its extension to common purposes, that we must look for real progress and consolidation of power.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND INCOME TAX.

Steps have been taken to make societies in the section fully aware of the position in regard to the threatened attempt to assess to Income Tax the dividends of co-operators. In the form of Mr. May's paper on "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax," the matter has been before every society's committee in the section; it has been discussed at conferences in each of the seven districts, and also at a largely attended sectional conference at which Mr. May read his paper and replied to the discussion. Every member of Parliament in the section has been approached twice at least on the matter, and further action on the lines of holding meetings in every Parliamentary division, which the respective M.P.'s will be invited to attend and express their views on the subject is contemplated. As co-operators we have no desire to evade our share of taxation or shirk any sacrifice necessary to our country's weal, but we do strongly protest against being singled out as a class, and burdens put upon us which the general community do not share.

EXCESS PROFITS.

By an ingenious modification of Income Tax law, co-operative societies were caught in the meshes of Finance Act (No. 2), 1915. Section 40 of this Act distinctly provides for the determination of profits on the same principles as the profits of the business would be determined for the purpose of Income

Tax. Had the provision stopped there, co-operative societies would have been exempt. But this provision is made subject to modifications set out in the fourth schedule, and in clause 10 of that schedule co-operative societies are brought within the sweep of the Act. A considerable amount of uneasiness and some resentment has been caused by the action of the legislature on this matter. It seems to involve the temporary surrender at least of a principle which has been jealously safe-guarded by co-operators for over half a century, and might conceivably pave the way for a further invasion upon our rights as citizens. It is also undeniable that in the case of a number of societies, which in the pre-war period were passing through difficulties, the provisions of the Act operate with great harshness. It is impossible at the moment, owing to the incompleteness of returns, to say to what extent co-operative societies have been involved. In reply to inquiries by the Parliamentary Committee, 629 societies have sent returns. Of these 159 were liable in 1915, and 181 in 1916; and the amount of duty paid in each year was £259,321 and £383,906 respectively. There seems to be no immediate prospect of relief from the imposition of the Act, and, in view of this fact, societies would do well to carefully take their bearings.

LOW DIVIDENDS.

It is evident that the position created by the Finance Act (No. 2) has been and is being reviewed by co-operative societies. One immediate result has been that in the case of a number of societies there has been a substantial reduction (relative to market prices) in the retail price of commodities, and a consequent lowering of dividends. In some societies the maximum dividend has been fixed at 1s. in the £1. A few years ago a policy of this kind would have been considered by many as a sure road to ruin.

It may be admitted that as yet the stage of experiment has not been passed, but so far results have exceeded the most sanguine expectations, and there is every indication that if this became the settled policy of co-operative societies, not only would a number of difficulties in the pathway of the movement be automatically removed, but the road to control of general distribution on co-operative lines would be more quickly traversed.

OBITUARY—MR. JOHN M'VITIE.

In the death of Mr. John M'Vitie (Carlisle), co-operators lost a stalwart whose spade-work in the early days of the movement helped to make secure the foundations on which co-operation rests.

Mr. M'Vitie first became a member of the Carlisle Society in 1869, just eight years after its establishment, and four years later he was elected on the committee of the society. From this time Mr. M'Vitie played a strenuous part in the work of co-operation in the district, and his marked abilities, both in the boardroom and on the platform, were soon recognised. It was owing greatly to his advocacy and farsightedness that the Carlisle Society joined the Co-operative Wholesale Society, a policy which at that time did not appeal to many of the members.

In 1885 Mr. M'Vitie was elected president of the society, and he was still president two years later, when the Nineteenth Annual Co-operative Congress was held in Carlisle.

Two years after Congress, Mr. M'Vitie was elected sectional representative of No. 3 district of the Northern Section, and here again his undoubted abilities were of great service in keeping to the front the true principles of co-operation.

In 1893 he was elected treasurer of Carlisle Society, a position he held for 21 years, enjoying the fullest confidence of every member; and it was with sincere regret the members learned some two years ago that failing health compelled him to relinquish the position.

COUNCILLOR JAMES STRONG, J.P.

Co-operators in Northumberland generally, and the Ashington Industrial Society in particular, sustained a distinct loss in the passing of James Strong. The Ashington Industrial was formed by the amalgamation of two small societies, and Mr. Strong was the first, and up to his death the only president the united society had. He took an intense interest in his work, and lived to see the sales increase from £67,000 to £250,000 per annum.

In co-operation generally he was deeply interested and for a number of years was chairman of No. 1 district association, a position he filled with great credit, and relinquished only a few weeks before his death. His wide outlook, coupled with the pronounced geniality of his disposition, secured for him many friends, and he was widely known and highly esteemed.

In his earlier years he rendered yeoman service in the formation of the Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund.

A. STODDART, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Gillians (chairman), Ashington.	Mr. T. Jackson, Pegswood.
„ G. Hardy (secretary), Bank Top, Bedlington.	„ J. Herdman, Newbiggin.
„ R. Lee, Bedlington.	„ J. Magin, Ashington.
	„ J. Robson, Cambois.

Mr. J. Davison, Bedlington, Sectional Representative.

It is with sincere regret that we have to preface our report by recording the death of Councillor James Strong, J.P. (Ashington), who for a number of years worthily filled the position of chairman of the district. He was one of the pioneers of the movement in the North, and will long be remembered

for his kind and genial nature, for the earnestness he carried into his work, and for his loyalty to the movement.

During the year four conferences have been held, the attendance at each being good, and the subjects discussed of general interest.

The first conference was held at Pegswood on 26th February, 1916, Mr. J. Herdman presiding. Mr. J. Gillians read Professor Hall's paper entitled "Co-operative Control of Raw Material," which gave rise to an interesting discussion, the following taking part :—Messrs. R. Lee, J. Oliver, J.P. (Co-operative Wholesale Society); County Councillor G. R. Nichol. J.P.; J. Magin, and others.

The second conference was held at Amble on 20th May, when an interesting paper was read by Mr. J. Davison on "The Co-operative Insurance Society from an Outsider's Standpoint." In the course of the discussion which followed, Mr. Fitton, the representative of the Co-operative Insurance Society, gave an interesting *résumé* of the society's work in the district.

At the invitation of the Blyth Central Society, the third conference was held there on 12th August. In an able paper, Mr. J. M. Gillians raised the important question of "The Consolidation of the Movement," and moved the following resolution, which was unanimously approved, namely :—

That this conference instructs the district executive to take, in conjunction with the Sectional Board, early steps to endeavour to create greater solidarity of action between societies in the district. In compliance with this resolution, negotiations have been opened with a number of societies in the district, with a view of conferences being arranged to discuss the matter.

A very interesting report of the Lancaster Congress was given by Mr. J. McNab, J.P. (chairman, Tweedmouth Society).

A resolution vigorously protesting against the new form of Income Tax assessment as affecting working men was approved, and copies ordered to be sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hon. T. Burt, and Hon. C. Fenwick; replies being received in each instance.

The fourth conference was held at Bedlington, on 4th November, when the subject for discussion was Mr. May's paper on "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax." Mr. Stoddart was prevented from being present to read the paper, but sent an able substitute in Mr. T. Ross (secretary of No. 5 district). An interesting discussion took place, and the resolution drafted by the Parliamentary committee unanimously approved.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure		£	s.	d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office		12	6	11	By Conferences		7	5	0
					„ By Executive Meetings		4	15	5
					„ Postages		0	6	6
<hr/>					<hr/>				
£12 6 11					£12 6 11				

G. HARDY, Secretary.

No. 2.—SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Endean (chairman), Cramling-	Mr. J. Kirkham, North Shields.
ton.	„ J. Henderson, Coxlodge.
„ J. Wight (secretary), Cramlington.	„ J. McKay, Walker.
„ T. G. Hunter, Wallsend.	„ T. Whitnell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. J. C. Aiston, Sectional Representative, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Three conferences were held during the year. Some difficulty in getting halls was experienced owing to occupation by the military.

The first was held at Willington Quay on 8th April, when Mr. Reay read Mr. G. Thorpe's paper, "Our Food Supplies, and how to increase them." There was a good attendance, and a fair discussion took place.

The second conference was held at Coxlodge on 19th August, when Mr. Maughan read Mr. Thorpe's paper, "Can the Co-operative Movement Govern the Price of Commodities?" An interesting and instructive discussion followed.

The third conference was held at the Co-operative Wholesale Society premises, Newcastle, on 16th December, 1916, and was well attended. Mr. J. Chapman (Newcastle) gave an address on the Income Tax question, supplemented by extracts from Mr. J. H. May's paper. A large number took part in the discussion, all in opposition to a tax on dividends; and a resolution of protest was passed unanimously.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash received from	Sectional				By Conferences		3	6	1
Office		6	0	1	„ Executive Meetings		2	11	0
					„ Postages		0	3	0
		£6 0 1					£6 0 1		

J. WIGHT, Secretary.

No. 3.—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Irving Graham, J.P. (chairman),	Mr. T. H. Walker, Penrith.
Carlisle,	„ John Stephenson Blennerhasset.
„ J. W. Mackay (secretary), Moor	„ H. Tyson, Egremont.
Row.	„ J. Hunt, Workington.
„ N. Ismay, Maryport.	

Mr. J. Murdoch, Workington, Sectional Representative.

There have been four conferences held in this district during the year. It is to be regretted that out of nineteen societies, nine only have been represented at the conferences. This does not speak well of the co-operative

spirit in the district, and some steps ought to be taken to bring about a better state of affairs.

The first conference was held at Workington (Jane Street Society) on 12th February, when Mr. Riddle (secretary, Carlisle Society) read a paper on "Finance and the War, and its Relation to Local Societies." The paper was well received, the different points being forcibly put, and an instructive discussion followed. A resolution that each society in No. 3 district consider carefully the terms governing shares, and remove as far as possible all restrictions on the accumulation of capital, was unanimously approved.

The second conference was held at Workington (Beehive Society) on 20th May. This conference was well attended. Mr. J. Thomas's paper, "Excess Profits Duty and the attitude of the Co-operative Movement towards it," was the subject of discussion. The paper was a comparatively short one, free from the technicalities which oftentimes baffle the uninitiated, and was listened to with the deepest interest. A very profitable discussion ensued, which was taken part in by the chairman (Mr. I. Graham, J.P.), Mr. King (Co-operative Wholesale Society), Mr. Riddle, (Carlisle), Mr. Ismay (Maryport), and others. Mr. Thomas ably replied to the discussion. Sympathetic reference was made to the retirement of Mr. Stephenson, who had so efficiently discharged the duties of district secretary for the past six years, and a vote of thanks was heartily accorded to him.

The third conference was held at Penrith on 12th August. Mr. T. Ross (secretary No. 5 district) presented an interesting and instructive paper on "The Use and Value of Statistics." The paper was carefully prepared, contained invaluable information, and provoked a really good discussion.

The fourth conference was held at Cleator Moor on 25th November, when Mr. T. Gavan Duffy gave an able and interesting address on "The Rise in the Price of Commodities, and the action the Movement ought to take with regard thereto." The address covered a wide field, bristled with points forcibly put, was highly appreciated by the conference, and brought a very lively discussion.

The women's guilds in the district have displayed a keen interest in the conferences.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash received from Sectional			By Conferences	13	2 11
Office	23	7 3	„ Executive Meetings	9	11 6
			„ Postages	0	12 10
	£23	7 3		£23	7 3

J. W. MACKAY, Secretary.

No. 4.—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Isaac C. Nixon (chairman), West Stanley.	Mr. Geo. Greener, Prudhoe.
„ R. Steel (secretary), Holmlea, Newburn.	„ E. Y. Spencer, Swalwell.
„ E. Hargreaves, Newburn.	„ W. Harrison, Tantobie.
	„ E. Saunders, Consett.

Mr. W. Scott, Blaydon, Sectional Representative.

There have been five conferences held in this district during the year 1916.

“Owing to present conditions, we strongly recommend societies in this district to pay a dividend not exceeding one shilling in the £1, and request them to call meetings of their members at an early date and report to another conference to be held as soon as possible after such meetings.”

The above is the substance of a resolution passed at our first conference, held at Annfield Plain, on 25th March, when Mr. Clayton addressed a large and representative gathering on the subject of “Lower Dividends.” Consett Society having already taken the initiative in this matter, Mr. Goudie (general manager) and Mr. Stoddart (chairman) strongly advocated similar action on the part of other societies.

The second conference was held at Swalwell on 27th May, and dealt further with the subject of “Lower Dividends.” After hearing reports from various societies the following resolution was approved, namely:—

That this conference expresses its belief in the need for a substantial reduction in prices and a consequent lowering of dividends, and expresses its pleasure that some societies have already decided to adopt this policy. It further urges the committees of societies that are not yet favourable to the change to keep the matter before their members, with a view of securing uniformity of action throughout the district, and the adoption of a policy in harmony with the fundamental principles of the movement as the most effective means of combating all forms of competition.

This matter is still engaging the attention of the executive, and steps are being taken to bring societies into line.

The third conference was held at Haltwhistle on 22nd July, at which Mr. T. Ross read his paper on “The Use and Value of Statistics.” A good discussion followed, to which Mr. Ross ably replied.

The subject dealt with at the fourth conference, which was held at Prudhoe on 30th September, was Professor F. Hall’s paper “The Economic Results of the War and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement.” Mr. Stoddart read the paper, and replied to the points raised in a very interesting discussion.

The fifth conference was held at Consett on 16th December, at which Mr. Stoddart read Mr. H. J. May's paper on "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax," and moved the resolution framed by the Parliamentary Committee, which was unanimously approved. An animated discussion followed, and copies of the resolution were ordered to be sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and M.P.'s in the district.

The conferences have been well attended, and great interest displayed in the subjects discussed.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash received from Sectional					By Conferences		12	1	4
Office	21	18	6		„ Executive Meetings		9	6	0
					„ Postage, &c.		0	11	2
							£21	18	6
				£21					
				18					
				6					

R. STEEL, Secretary.

No. 5.—EAST DURHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Thos. Wallace (chairman), Hebburn Colliery.	Mr. S. Bramley, Jarrow.
„ Thomas Roßs (secretary), Felling.	„ A. D. Franks, Boldon Colliery.
„ W. Johnson, Birtley.	„ William Flynn, Gateshead.
	„ F. A. Christal, Sunderland.

Mr. W. R. Rae, Sunderland, Sectional Representative.

We have held four conferences during the year. The attendance at each conference has been all that could be desired, and the discussion well sustained by delegates from all parts of the district.

The first conference was held on 17th April, 1916, on the premises of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, West Blandford Street, Newcastle. This conference was held jointly with that of the section, at which Mr. Leah (Co-operative Insurance Society) gave an address on "Industrial Assurance." In his address Mr. Leah submitted a comparison of figures showing what was being done by the Insurance Society in its endeavour to meet the needs of the members of the various societies in industrial insurance. There was, however, a feeling in the conference that something more might be done, and a resolution was carried to the effect—"That the Insurance Department prepare and submit a complete scheme, showing in what way it was intended to so map out the several districts as to realise the fullest return of insurance business."

The second conference was held on 17th June, on the premises of Seaham Harbour Society, and the subject was an address by Mr. F. A. Christal, on "What the Statistics of the Section Reveal."

Mr. Christal made some very suggestive observations on such matters as related to trade, membership, capital, depreciation, &c., and he expressed it as his opinion that societies ought to spend more on education, as the

amount shown for that purpose was, he thought, very inadequate. Mr Young (Seaham Harbour) opened the discussion, and in his remarks made special reference to the need for more depreciation; societies, he thought, did not pay sufficient attention to safeguarding their interests in this way. A very interesting discussion ensued, which was taken part in by several delegates.

The third conference was held on 28th October, on the premises of Sunderland Society, the subject being Mr. May's paper "Co-operative Societies and income Tax." Mr. A. Stoddart (sectional secretary) read the paper, and several took part in the discussion, after which the resolution, which was printed with the paper, was passed unanimously.

The fourth conference was held on 6th January, 1917, on the premises of Gateshead Society. At this conference Mr. A. Stoddart (sectional secretary) read for the first time his newly prepared paper, "First Things First." In this paper Mr Stoddart has photographed, in a very graphic manner, some few of those things in the co-operative movement which make all the difference between progress and retrogression, between success and failure, and he very strikingly indicates one or two of the next steps which ought to be taken almost at once for the purpose of making the federal power of the various distributive societies more effective and complete.

The paper was particularly well appreciated, and it was understood by the conference that the district committee would make an effort to place before a future conference some suggestions in detail, for the purpose of realising the ideas brought out in the paper. There is no doubt that the subject matter of this paper of Mr. Stoddart's is of sufficient importance to command the attention of all who are interested in the advancement of the co-operative movement.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office	10	0	3		By Conferences	5	8	0	
					„ Executive Meetings	4	12	3	
				£10 0 3					£10 0 3

THOMAS ROSS, Secretary.

No. 6.—SOUTH DURHAM.

Executive Committee.

Mr. M. Price (chairman), Ferryhill.	Mr. C. White, Hetton Downs.
„ J. Davison (secretary), Newbottle.	„ T. Readshaw, Bishop Auckland.
„ Joseph Bell, Tow Law.	„ J. W. Strickland, Willington.
„ S. Whiteley, Langley Moor.	

Mr. S. Galbraith, Durham, Sectional Representative.

During the year 1916 four conferences have been held in this district. The subjects selected for discussion were of general interest, and the attendance satisfactory.

The first conference was held at Willington, on 18th March. Mr. Snowdon (secretary, Willington Society), in a very clear and able manner, read Mr. T. M. Young's paper, "Retail Labour Troubles and the Attitude of Committees towards them." The fact that the question of substituted female labour was at this time engaging the attention of the section added interest to the useful discussion which followed the reading of the paper. A large number of delegates took part, and, on the motion of Mr. Snowdon, seconded by Mr. Readshaw, the following resolution was approved :—

That this conference approves of the suggestions contained in the resolutions passed at the Sectional Conference of 4th March, believing that some uniform method of action and practice is essential to combat the retail labour troubles, and also suggests that the newly formed Conciliation Boards should have the earliest opportunity of dealing with disputes before any further regrettable strikes are allowed to take place in the movement.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Snowdon ended a very profitable conference.

The second conference was held at Stanhope on 24th June. At this conference Mr. Clayton (sectional secretary) gave an address on "The Need for Co-operative Propaganda." In the course of his address Mr. Clayton recommended each society to get a supply of the little book, "The Co-operative Movement and the Place of the Member in it," for free distribution amongst members and those wishing to become members, and expressed his conviction that this method would be a great assistance in building up the movement. This recommendation was agreed to by resolution. The following further resolution dealing with the Income Tax agitation was moved by Mr. Clayton and seconded by Mr. Hildreth, namely :—

That this conference, representing 52,612 co-operators, protests against any attempt to levy Income Tax on non-members' trade, the amount of such being infinitesimal, and its collection would entail trouble and expense out of all proportion to the amount of the tax, and agrees to petition the M.P.'s in the district to oppose such an attempt.

Mr. Clayton was heartily thanked for his address.

The third conference was held at Station Town, on 23rd September, when Mr. Readshaw (secretary, Bishop Auckland Society) very ably dealt with the question of "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax," pointing out that, in order to effectively meet this agitation, it was necessary to educate our members on the gravity of the situation, upon the importance of the movement, and also to educate public opinion. In the course of the discussion which followed considerable support was given to the idea of direct representation in Parliament. Mr. Readshaw was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The fourth conference took place at Sherburn Hill on 16th December, when the subject for discussion was again "Income Tax," Mr. Hann (Sherburn Hill) reading Mr. H. J. May's paper on the subject. The able

manner in which the paper was read was much appreciated; a good discussion, taken part in by a large number of delegates, ensued, and the resolution drafted by the Parliamentary Committee, unanimously approved.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash received from Sectional Office.....	17	0	2		By Conferences	8	11	6	
					„ Executive Meetings	7	13	6	
					„ Postages, &c.....	0	15	2	
				£17					£17
				0					0
				2					2

JAS. DAVISON, Secretary.

NO. 7.—SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Liddle (chairman), West Hartlepool.	Mr. J. Cottrell, Guisborough.
„ R. Turnbull (secretary), Loftus	„ W. R. Tennet, West Hartlepool.
„ T. W. Brown, Darlington.	„ T. Scarth, Stockton.
	„ W. Parkin, Middlesbrough.

Mr. Geo. Bedford, Middlesbrough, Sectional Representative.

Five conferences have been held in this district during the year, the subjects presented being of general interest, and the discussions helpful and instructive.

The first conference was held at Guisborough on 23rd March, when Mr. Smith's paper, "Co-operation and Agricultural Produce," was read by Mr. G. Bedford (chairman, Sectional Board), and a resolution passed agreeing upon the necessity of taking steps to open a dépôt for the collection of local agricultural and garden produce.

The funeral of the late Mr. T. Tweddell taking place on the same date as this conference, Messrs. Liddle (chairman) and Tennet (executive), were unable to be present. The conference, by resolution, extended to Mrs. Tweddell and family, and also the Hartlepool Society, its sympathy and condolence in the great loss sustained by the death of Mr. Tweddell.

Mr. John Hind, who for 18 years had performed in a most efficient manner the duties of district secretary, now intimated his intention of retiring, an announcement which was received with many expressions of regret.

The second conference was held at Loftus on 27th May, when Mr. Tennet read Mr. Myer's paper on "Co-operation and the Coal Supply." The subject provoked a lively discussion, a strong feeling being expressed that the Co-operative Wholesale Society should acquire collieries, and thus meet the needs of co-operators. A resolution was also passed expressing regret at Mr. Hind's resignation, and putting on record an appreciation of the great services he had rendered.

The third conference was held at Marske on 26th August, when the subject for discussion was "The Economic Results of the War and their

address being given by Mr. W. Clayton. The third was held at Chester-le-Street, when Mr. W. R. Rae gave an excellent address on "The Literature of the Movement, with special reference to books students should read." The fourth one was held at Middlesbrough, when Professor Hall outlined in a very able manner some of the results of the war. Each of the conferences was well attended, and the discussions helpful. But for the war an attempt would have been made to carry into effect the programme outlined at the first two conferences. For the present this is impossible, though this war has demonstrated the need for it, and its close will bring to the co-operative movement the greatest opportunity of the century, an opportunity to show that, many-sided as life is, this movement can help in its development, and offers an opportunity for co-operation such as no other does.

EASTER WEEK-END.

This was held at Birkenhead, and whilst we could not expect the Oxford atmosphere there, it was an exceedingly beneficial week-end, the outstanding feature being the contributions of Mr. Evan Hughes, on "Economic and Social Construction after the War," and Professor Muir on "The Culmination of Modern History." An invitation was received and accepted from the Chancellor of Cambridge University for that of 1917. After the arrangements were well in hand the railway fares were increased, and this, together with the additional demands made by the Government, induced the committee to postpone the gathering until 1918.

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

The winner of the gold bangle was Elizabeth Howe, with 105 marks out of a possible 120; and the gold medal, J. B. Sleightholm, with 95 marks. Both of these students belong to Chester-le-Street.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

The increased railway fares and the difficulty of students getting away for a lengthened period, induced the Central Education Committee to invite the various sections to hold week-end schools. This your committee has under consideration. The winner of the scholarship tenable at the Lytham Summer School last year was Mr. G. Baxter (Middlesbrough).

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance forward	100	14 5	By Subscriptions	2	3 0
„ Subscriptions	52	14 3	„ Lytham Scholarship	2	13 4
			„ Conference Expenses	24	17 6
			„ Committee's Fees and Fares	7	10 9
			„ Miscellaneous Expenses	8	4 9
			„ Balance in Bank	107	19 4
	£153	8 8		£153	8 8

W. CLAYTON, Secretary.

(4) NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

Ten meetings of the Sectional Board have been held during the year, at which the attendance has been as follows:—

	Present.	Sick.	On Deputation.
E. Booth	10	—	—
W. Dewhurst	10	—	—
S. Fairbrother	10	—	—
S. R. Foster	9	—	1
G. Goodenough	10	—	—
J. Greenwood	9	1	—
W. Gregory	10	—	—
J. W. Hargreaves.....	10	—	—
F. Hayward	9	—	1
F. Houghton	10	—	—
S. C. Hughes	8	—	1
J. Johnston	10	—	—
G. Major.....	8	2	—
J. Morrell	8	2	—
J. Pollitt	10	—	—
T. Redfearn	10	—	—
W. Swindlehurst.....	8	2	—
J. Thompson	9	1	—
T. Way	10	—	—
B. Woolfenden	9	1	—
Hon. Members:—			
C. J. Beckett.....	—	—	—
H. Stuttard	2	—	8
G. Wheelhouse	1	—	9

At the first meeting held after Congress the following appointments were made, viz. :—

Chairman : Mr. G. Goodenough.

Vice-chairman : Mr. W. Dewhurst.

United Board : Messrs. W. Dewhurst, G. Goodenough, J. W. Hargreaves, and J. Pollitt.

Office Committee : Messrs. W. Dewhurst and J. Pollitt.

Education Committee : Messrs. E. Booth and S. Fairbrother.

Propaganda Committee : Messrs. F. Hayward and S. R. Foster.

North-Western Educational Committees' Association : Mr. B. Woolfenden.

Sectional Propaganda Committee : Messrs. F. Hayward, S. C. Hughes, J. Johnston, G. Major, J. Morrell, J. Thompson, and T. Way.

Choral Association : Messrs. W. Dewhurst, S. Fairbrother, W. Gregory, S. C. Hughes, and J. Morrell.

In submitting the report of the section, we regret to say that owing to circumstances brought about by the war, it has been found impossible to prepare the general statistical information in time for the annual conference. The clerical staffs of societies are so depleted that consideration must be given to those who are left behind to carry on operations.

Only one-third of the returns have been received from the societies at the time of compiling this report, and so far as we are able to judge from these returns, there appears to be a substantial increase, both in membership and trade, but with regard to the latter, the continuous increase in the price of commodities will have to be taken into account. Notwithstanding this, however, co-operation in the section has more than held its own, but if societies are to successfully overcome the many difficult problems which will undoubtedly confront them after the cessation of hostilities, it is necessary that every preparation should be made at the present time.

As will be observed from this report, the Sectional Board have held ten meetings, at which many matters of importance have been dealt with. At the first meeting, with a view to uniformity of action by the various conference associations throughout the section, a recommendation was made to the United Board that the following subjects be dealt with during the year, viz. :—

1. The amalgamation and consolidation of societies.
2. The rise in prices of commodities, and the action to be taken by the movement.
3. Professor F. Hall's congress paper entitled, "The Economic Results of the War, and their effect upon the Co-operative Movement."

The United Board accepted the recommendation, and a circular letter was issued to the executive committees of all conference associations in the section, asking them to arrange for these subjects to be discussed at their district conferences.

In addition to the aforementioned, several districts have dealt with the question of Excess Profits Duty, and have considered the steps which ought to be taken to avoid the imposition.

FOOD CONFERENCE.

On Saturday, September 30th, a Sectional Conference was held under the joint auspices of the Brightside and Carbrook and Sheffield and Ecclesall Societies, to consider a paper prepared by Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., on "Food Prices." Owing to an important engagement, Mr. Anderson, however, was not able to attend the conference, but, by arrangement, Mrs. Anderson attended in his stead, and introduced the subject for consideration.

The conference was well attended, and many important points were brought out in the discussion, to which Mrs. Anderson suitably replied. The following resolution was passed unanimously, and a copy of same has been forwarded to the Prime Minister :—

That this conference, representing 1,700,000 members of co-operative societies in the North-Western Section of the Co-operative Union Ltd. of Great Britain and Ireland, and representing a capital of £20,000,000 and an annual retail trade of £40,000,000, emphatically protests against the inactivity of the Government in regard to the control of food prices ; it calls upon the Government to take immediate action in this matter, and to adopt such measures as are necessary to prevent the continued inflation of prices due to the monopoly power exercised by certain sections of the community.

Owing to the importance of this subject, the United Board convened four conferences, which were held on Saturday, January 20th, at Leeds, Bristol, Edinburgh, and London. Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., attended the conference at Leeds, and gave a very inspiring address, which was frequently applauded. Particulars of this conference will appear in the Central Board Report to Congress.

The annual conference for the consideration of the sectional and district reports was held at Oldham on Saturday, 21st April, under the auspices of the Oldham Industrial Society.

SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE.

For the benefit of secretaries a special conference was held on Saturday, November 11th, when Mr. W. W. Whittle, secretary of the Preston society, which society entertained the conference, introduced in a very able paper the question of "Dividends" and "Excess Profits Duty."

The chief point in the paper was the effect of the Excess Profits Duty on co-operative dividends. It was clearly pointed out that if societies maintained their usual rate of dividend it would be found in most cases that, owing to higher prices and the consequent increase in the rate of purchases per member, the Excess Profits Duty would be chargeable. The best and safest course to adopt is to budget for a less dividend and to recommend such reduced dividend as is necessary when the profit is declared at the members' meeting. A very lengthy and animated discussion took place, and the following resolution was passed unanimously, copies of which have been sent to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer :—

That this joint conference of committee members and secretaries of societies in the North-Western section of the Co-operative Union, representing 1,700,000 individuals, emphatically protests against the imposition of Excess Profits Duty, in so far as it affects the co-operative movement on the grounds—(1) Its surplus is not profit, but deferred discount, and as such is not liable to taxation ; (2) that the method of calculation

does not allow for an increased trade due to the rise in prices of commodities, and debars the co-operative movement from extending its operations and increasing its trade; the tax has also a detrimental effect upon the practice of thrift encouraged by the co-operative movement.

SECTIONAL DEMONSTRATION.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Sectional Demonstration and Choir contests have again been abandoned in consequence of the war, we are pleased to report that the members have stood loyally by the choral association, and have paid their subscriptions as usual. Although contests have not been held, it does not mean that the choirs have given up their classes, rather the reverse, as many of the choirs have held local demonstrations, and these have been highly appreciated. It is hoped that the choirs will continue their good work and prepare themselves for the great "thanksgiving" which will follow the declaration of peace.

There are now 42 choirs connected with the association, but, considering the number of societies in the section, there is ample room for a great increase in membership. We, therefore, appeal to those societies, which have educational departments, to form choirs and become affiliated with the association. Whether they have choirs or not we would welcome their membership, as we are anxious to strengthen the association in order to develop and extend its activities.

On Saturday, November 18th, Mr. W. H. Brown (President of the Southern Section Choral Association) attended a meeting of the association, and gave a very interesting and instructive address, entitled "Harmony in Democratic Movements." In reply to the discussion which followed the address, Mr. Brown made some valuable suggestions, and these will be taken into consideration when making arrangements for choir contests after the war.

The object of the choral association is to raise the standard of musical taste in connection with co-operative gatherings, and so far as we are able to judge, we think we can claim in this connection some measure of success.

BOUNDARIES.

During the period covered by this report many cases of overlapping and boundaries have been dealt with:—

- (a) *Chesterfield and Hasland Societies*.—Particulars of this case were given in our previous report. Renewed efforts have been made to bring about an amicable settlement. Representatives from the Sectional Board again met the committee of Hasland Society, but unfortunately nothing satisfactory has been accomplished, but we trust that time will heal the breach and bring about more cordial relations.
- (b) *Park Lane and Bryn Gates Societies*.—This case has also been proceeding for some considerable time, particulars of which are to be

found in our previous report. Owing to the attitude of the Bryn Gates Society, we regret to report that the negotiations have terminated unsatisfactorily. The case is of such a nature that it has been referred to the United Board to deal with. The United Board appointed a deputation to interview the committee of the Society, but for some reason or other, the committee refused to receive such deputation. Negotiations are still proceeding.

- (c) *Scunthorpe, Goole, Doncaster, Great Grimsby, and Gainsborough Societies.*—The Scunthorpe Society having taken over the branch of the Goole Society at Crowle, it was found advisable to arrange boundary lines with neighbouring societies. Representatives from the North-Western and the Midland Sectional Boards therefore met the committees of the societies named, on Saturday, December 9th. The attitude of the various representatives at this meeting was very commendable, and the spirit in which the business was conducted was very praiseworthy. Boundary agreements are in course of preparation, and before long will be completed.
- (d) *Bolton and Eagley Societies.*—Arising out of a complaint made by the Eagley Society against Bolton Society in delivering goods into their area, a deputation was appointed to wait upon both committees. A meeting was held in the Board Room of the Bolton Society, and it was unanimously decided that the deputation should pay a visit to the district and submit their findings in writing to each committee. The visit was made, and suggestions forwarded to the respective committees for their consideration.
- (e) *Barnoldswick, Colne, Earby, and Salterforth Societies.*—A great amount of friction has been caused in this case by Salterforth Society amalgamating with Colne. Representatives from the Sectional Board met the committees of the societies named on many occasions, with a view of arriving at a settlement. In addition to interviews with the committees, a visit to the district was made and suggestions offered which would safeguard the interests of Barnoldswick and Earby Societies. We regret to report, however, that the suggestions were not accepted, consequently the negotiations terminated unsatisfactorily. The executive of the North-East Lancashire District has since been called in to investigate the case, and their decision, we understand, has been forwarded to the societies concerned.
- (f) *Hindsford and Leigh Societies.*—At the invitation of the Hindsford Committee, representatives were appointed to wait upon them with regard to their desire for a modification of the boundary line between themselves and Leigh. Negotiations are proceeding.

- (g) *Failsworth and Manchester and Salford Societies.*—The Committee of Failsworth Society having expressed a desire for a modification of the existing boundary line between their Society and Manchester and Salford Society in the Queen's Road district for the purpose of relieving the congestion at their branch in Queen's Road, invited representatives from the Sectional Board to meet them. Meetings with the committees of both Societies have been held, and at the time of writing negotiations are still proceeding.

AMALGAMATION.

In order to carry out the resolution passed at the Dublin Congress on the question of amalgamation, the Sectional Propaganda Committee has held many meetings with committees of societies in various parts of the section. In order that the movement may be better able to withstand the difficult problems which loom ahead, the Propaganda Committee has been doing everything possible in districts which are covered by more than one society, to bring about the better consolidation of co-operative interests. In furtherance of this, a joint meeting of the committees of societies carrying on operations in the area of Bradford was held on Saturday, November 25th, to consider the possibilities of amalgamation. A draft scheme was submitted, and a lengthy and animated discussion took place, but we regret to say that very little progress was made in the direction desired.

Following up the efforts which were made some time ago in the city of Manchester, the committees of societies in the area were invited to meet the Propaganda Committee to discuss the possibility of a co-operative retail federation for the city, with a view to establishing a co-operative emporium on the lines of the big firm-shops, in connection with which a restaurant, if not an hotel, could be attached to it. There were six societies represented at the meeting, and Mr. Alcock, the writer of the article appearing in the *Co-operative News* of August 12th last, on the question of a federation of the Manchester societies, was invited to attend and introduce the question for consideration. After a lengthy and animated discussion, it was decided to form a sub-committee to inquire and report on the possibility of establishing an emporium for the city. At the first meeting of the sub-committee a deputation was appointed to wait upon the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, to ascertain the probably prospective development of the retail business undertaken by the Wholesale Society. The interview with the Wholesale directors took place on February 15th, and a very sympathetic hearing was given to all that the deputation had to say on the proposal. Before expressing any definite opinion, however, the directors preferred to wait until a scheme had been prepared, and when completed, they expressed themselves as being favourable to receiving the deputation again.

Negotiations have also been reopened with the Bacup, Stacksteads, and Tunstead Societies, and we are pleased to report that matters are progressing very favourably. Before long we hope that amalgamation of the three societies will be accomplished.

As intimated in our previous report, steps have been taken to amalgamate

the two societies at Low Moor, viz. :—Low Moor Nelson Street and Low Moor Union Street. The statutory meetings have been held and the necessary resolutions for amalgamation submitted, and approved; the amalgamated society has adopted the rules of the Low Moor Nelson Street Society. We understand that co-operation in the village has had a great fillip.

The Cheadle (Staffs.) Society has amalgamated with the Leek and Moorlands Society, and Salterforth with Colne Society.

INCOME TAX AGITATION.

To frustrate the efforts of the private traders' associations and chambers of commerce, a plan of campaign has been drawn up, and the executive committees of the conference associations throughout the section have been requested to take the matter up in their respective districts. The opponents of our movement are leaving no stone unturned to persuade the Government to tax the dividends of co-operative societies, and in order that the public may understand our position with regard to this matter meetings have been arranged by many societies.

To refute the statements which are being constantly made by the opponents of co-operation with regard to Income Tax, Societies are urged to secure interviews with their respective members of Parliament. Several interviews have already taken place, and in every case when our position has been explained we have received most encouraging replies.

A special form of petition for members to sign, also a large poster calling their attention to such petition, have been prepared, and we recommend that societies obtain supplies of these and see that arrangements are made for their members to sign such petition. It is essential that societies should interest themselves in this matter, as the private traders, chambers of commerce, and even municipal bodies are trying to undermine the foundation of our movement and prevent its legitimate development. The executive committees of the conference associations are prepared to supply speakers free of charge to any society member of the Union in their respective districts, therefore, we trust that societies will take up the matter in earnest so that the commission, which the Government has decided to set up after the war, will know that co-operators are prepared to resist by all the means in their power the taxation of their dividends, which are savings brought about by joint purchasing.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

The arguments which can be adduced on the question of Income Tax apply with equal force to the Excess Profits Duty. It is up to societies, however, to so conduct their business as to avoid the imposition. With the continuous increase in the price of commodities, it is most difficult for societies to escape the duty. The safest course, to our mind, is to budget for a less dividend, and we would advise societies to seriously consider this suggestion. The duty is most unfair and inequitable to co-operative societies, as it is a tax on thrift and savings. This form of taxation is unprecedented in the history of taxation.

REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNING BODIES.

At the forthcoming Congress to be held at Swansea, the question of direct representation of co-operators in Parliament will again come up for consideration, and in view of the probable changes which will take place after the war in the governing bodies of the country, it is essential that societies should prepare their organisation for such changes.

It is not necessary to deal with this matter at length here, as the representatives of societies will have an opportunity of discussing the question at Congress. In the meantime, however, it would be as well to reflect on what has been done against the movement by the Government of to-day. Co-operators should be alive to their own interests, and see to it when the time comes that they are more strongly represented on the various governing bodies.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

In accordance with the resolution of the Lancaster Congress, hours and wages boards have now been set up in all districts of the section, and we are pleased to say that the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees has agreed to recognise such boards. Model rules for the guidance of the boards have been prepared and adopted. The following are the methods of procedure mutually agreed upon by the hours and wages board and the A.U.C.E. :—

1. That upon receipt by the secretary of the hours and wages board from the secretary of the district council, or by the secretary of the district council from the secretary of the hours and wages board, of a communication concerning the wages, hours, or other conditions of employment affecting a society or societies within the area, a meeting of the two bodies shall be arranged as early as practicable, and in any event within 15 days from the receipt of such communication.
2. The communication referred to in the previous paragraph shall be in writing, and set out clearly the purpose for which the joint meeting is to be held.
3. That failing a decision being reached at the first meeting, further meetings shall be held at intervals not exceeding ten days, unless a larger interval be mutually agreed to.
4. That the terms of any decision which may be reached shall become operative as may be decided upon at the time such decision has been arrived at.
5. That three months' notice must be given by either side of any proposed alterations in the method of procedure.

JOINT MEETING.

At the close of the meeting of the Sectional Board, held on Saturday, October 7th, a conference with representatives from hours and wages boards

and district associations was held to consider the suggested rules prepared by the United Board for the guidance of hours and wages board. After one or two slight amendments, the rules were unanimously adopted.

In addition to the above the question of appointing a person to devote the whole of his time to labour questions affecting societies, was introduced, and after consideration, the following resolution was passed :—

That in the opinion of this meeting the time has arrived for the appointment of a person to devote the whole of his time to labour questions affecting societies in the North-Western Section, and, further, the United Board be asked to consider the advisability of forming a labour department in connection with the Co-operative Union.

NATIONAL GUARANTEE FUND.

In accordance with the decision of the Lancaster Congress, societies throughout the United Kingdom will be asked to guarantee one shilling per £100 of sales towards the formation of a defence fund. The object of this fund is to render financial assistance to any society whose employes may come out on strike. The fund will be administered in a similar manner to that raised some years ago to fight the traders' boycott.

CONCILIATION BOARDS.

The services of the Lancashire and Yorkshire District Conciliation Boards have been requisitioned to deal with disputes at the following societies, viz. : Halifax, Keighley, Hebden Bridge, and Manchester Laundries. In the Halifax Society's case, however, it was found necessary to enlist the services of the National Conciliation Board, which is the final court of appeal.

NATIONAL POLICY.

Some time it has been thought that the Co-operative Union should formulate a definite policy, and in view of this the office committee have prepared suggestions which will be submitted to the Swansea Congress for approval or otherwise.

If the movement is to make progress, it is essential that it should have a declared policy and do everything possible to educate its members in accordance therewith. The delegates attending the forthcoming Congress will be supplied with a copy of the suggestions, and it is hoped that societies will, in the meantime, consider them and instruct their delegates how to act when they are brought forward at Congress.

CONVALESCENT HOMES.

- (a) *Seaside Home, Blackpool*.—The attendance at this Home during the past twelve months has not been quite satisfactory, as the numbers have decreased as compared with the previous year. The particulars are as follows :—

	1915.		1916.		Inc'se.		Dec'se.
Recommends received	1,660½	..	1,431	..	—	..	229½
Extra weeks	218	..	313	..	95	..	—

It will be seen from the above that whilst there is a considerable decrease in the number of recommends presented, the extra weeks stayed by convalescents has increased, but not to the extent of making up for the decreased number of recommends. The average cost of food for each resident, including the staff, has been 7s. 7.25d. as against 6s. 2.68d. for 1915, thus showing a considerable increase, which is accounted for by the higher price of all commodities. The maintenance charges average 8s. 1.5d. each person per week, making a total expense of 15s. 8.75d. There has been a loss on the working of the Home of £28. 19s. 3d.

- (b) *Inland Home, Otley*—During the whole of the past twelve months Belgian refugees have been in residence at this Home, but they have now left, and it is being prepared for the reception of convalescent members from our Societies, whom we hope to be in a position to receive early in March. It will be of interest to our members to know that during the past two years between sixty and seventy Belgians have been in residence for varying periods. Without exception they have all been grateful for the hospitality extended, and many have expressed in writing their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them. The majority of the refugees who have passed through our Home are now employed in this country, and are in a position to look after their own requirements, whilst a few have gone back either to France or Belgium. The expense of keeping the Belgians has been met out of the fund organised by the Co-operative Union Limited, specially subscribed by societies for helping distressed Belgians, and we desire to express our sincere thanks to the Co-operative Union for their readiness to help in this direction. We are also expecting that the Union will defray all, or a large portion, of the cost of cleaning and beautifying the Home, which is now being carried out. We have again been approached by the local authorities with the object of allowing the Home to be used as a military hospital, but finally it was decided by them not to proceed with the proposal.

CONGRESS OF 1918.

In view of the fact that the Congress of 1918 will be the Jubilee Congress, it is proposed that it should be held in Manchester, the headquarters of the movement. The Sectional Boards concerned have been approached on the matter, and the Northern Section, on condition that the Congress for the following year is held in their section, has waived its claim to the Jubilee Congress. We feel sure that the proposal to celebrate the Jubilee Congress

in Manchester will meet with the approval of societies in this section, and that everything possible will be done to make it a success.

GENERAL.

The Sectional Board has, during the year, had under consideration the question of establishing a Co-operative Holiday Home for the section, and the Manor House on the Chaigeley Estate (Clitheroe), belonging to the Wholesale Society, was suggested as a suitable centre for such purpose. A sub-committee was appointed to wait upon the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society to ascertain their views on the proposal, and at their invitation the deputation paid a visit to the estate. On investigation, however, it was found that the house would need a great deal of alteration before it could be made suitable for a Holiday Home, therefore it was thought advisable to abandon the idea for the present.

During the year the following societies have become affiliated with the Union, viz. :—Carleton, Carnarvon, Central Working Men's (Golcar), Hadfield and Hollingworth Coal, Heath and Williamthorpe, Junction House (Slaithwaite), Milnrow Conservative, Peak Forest, Tunstead, Wakefield Borough, and Whitehough.

The subscriptions received from societies in the section during 1916 amount to £7,036. 12s. 1d., an increase of £329. 6s. 1d. on the previous year.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret we have to report that the following well-known co-operators have passed away, viz. :—Messrs. N. Briggs (Prestwich), T. Warburton (Manchester), J. Holden (Denholme), and G. Wheelhouse (Barnsley). These men were prominent figures at our co-operative gatherings for many years, and we desire to place on record our appreciation of the valuable services which they have rendered to the movement.

G. GOODENOUGH, *Chairman*.

J. BRADSHAW, *Secretary*.

EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

The Minister for Education, the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P., has intimated that he proposes, at an early date, to introduce a Bill for the reorganisation of our educational system.

The support of the North must be given to Mr. Fisher in a whole-hearted manner if he is to encounter the prejudices and difficulties advanced by those who do not believe in equality in education. As a great industrial organisation, we must accord to Mr. Fisher our support and interest, and to demand from the Government a complete National system of education, which will provide for every child, adolescent, and adult, educational opportunity for their complete intellectual and moral advancement.

The Workers' Educational Association has submitted a general proposal for educational reconstruction, which should commend itself to all democratic organisations.

We submit the following resolution for your approval, viz. :—

That since the primary need of democracy is self-reliant, self-disciplined men and women, endowed with healthy bodies and vigorous minds, and capable of co-operating with others for the common good, this meeting affirms that the aim of all educational reform must be to bring within the reach of every child, adolescent, and adult, irrespective of class or sex, full opportunities of receiving such education as will fit them for the duties of manhood and womanhood, it urges the Government to introduce forthwith a Bill for a complete National system of education, and pledges itself to use every effort to secure this necessary and urgent reform.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No 1.—AIREDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. C. Gration (chairman), Leeds.	Mr. W. A. Haigh, Great Horton.
„ M. Hopwood (secretary), Bradford.	„ H. Holden, Denholme.
„ J. E. N. Brooke, Keighley.	„ E. Hyde, Windhill.
„ A. Firth, City of Bradford.	

Representative on the Sectional Board : Mr. S. R. Foster, Bingley.

In presenting our report for 1916, we beg to say, considering the abnormal times through which we are passing, causing unparelled difficulties, both as to labour, prices, and shortage in commodities, the movement has played a good part in steadying prices to the consumer. We may reasonably claim that co-operation has served our members and the public well in these troublous times, for which we can take credit.

We have held four conferences during the year. The first conference was held at Leeds, under the auspices of the Leeds Industrial Society. Mr. Joseph Smith (president) occupying the chair. Mr. J. C. Gration read Mr. F. Hall's paper entitled "Co-operative Capital, its Accumulation and Employment."

The second conference was held at Keighley, at the invitation of the Keighley Industrial Society, Mr. F. Midgeley in the chair. Mr. T. Armstrong (Manchester) read his paper on "What and How Co-operative Societies Should Advertise."

The third conference was held at Skipton. Mr. W. Driver (president) in the chair. Mr. Jas. Foulds (manager of the Skipton Industrial Society)

read a paper on "The General Manager's Position in the Co-operative Movement."

The fourth conference was held at Haworth. Mr. H. Pickles (president of the local society) in the chair. Mr. Walter Chaplin read Mr. W. C. Anderson's paper entitled "Food Prices in War Time."

The conferences have been well attended, and the discussions calculated to further progress in the movement.

The local productive societies, feeling the strain imposed by the national crisis, are making the best of the circumstances and looking forward to the time when normal conditions will again prevail.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand 1st Jan., 1916	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	3	17	10
„ Cash from North-Western Honorial Board.....	16	5	5	„ Conferences and other Meetings.....	6	11	9
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	12	0
				„ Joint Conferences.....	1	5	10
				„ General Printing.....	0	15	6
				„ Postages	1	2	6
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916.....	6	0	0
	£22	5	5		£22	5	5

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance 1st Jan., 1916		7	8	1	By Congress		2	0	0
„ Leeds Executive Women's Guild		0	2	6	„ J. Mitchell's Funeral		0	12	5
„ Bradford Men's Guild		0	2	6	„ Huddersfield Conference		0	7	3
„ Wilsden		0	15	0					
„ Denholme		0	5	0					
„ Bingley		1	0	0	„ Balance		6	13	5
		£9	13	1			£9	13	1

M. HOPWOOD, Secretary.

No. 2.—BOLTON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Thomas Barlow (chairman), Farnworth.	Mr. Jas. Butterworth, Radcliffe.
„ Jas. Monks (secretary), 96, Pennington Road, Great Lever, Bolton.	„ John T. Neath, Walkden.
Mrs. S. Smith, Bolton.	„ Thos. H. Orrell, Horwich.
	„ Ernest Wallwork, Westhoughton.
	„ Henry Jackson, Wigan.

Educational Committees' Representative : Mr. Samuel Davies, Bolton.

Sectional Representative: Mr. S. Fairbrother, Bolton.

It is again our duty to present the report of the workings of the above association during the past year. Perhaps never before in the history of the association has there been the necessity of showing the truest co-operative spirit as at the present time. As units, we are feeling our utter helplessness, therefore the greater need for helping each other through the difficult times in which we now live. The worth of the association to the members who

comprise this body must be self-evident, and therefore the executive committee have been most assiduous in promoting the welfare of the various societies. The task has been no light one, and we are stronger to-day in our co-operative faith than we have ever been before. The subjects brought before the delegates attending the conferences have been of such a character as to enable them to go back to their societies with new inspirations, new thoughts, greater business instincts, and, above all, with greater enthusiasm to carry on their work with honest integrity, for the benefit of those they are called upon to serve.

Co-operative trade has been brisk in the district, and, like others, we have had great difficulties to face in carrying out our work, but patience, trust, and hope, with self-sacrifice and consideration for others, will lead us nearer the goal to which we are striving.

During the year four conferences have been held, the first taking place at Hindsford on Saturday, April 8th, 1916, when Mr. Ernest Wallwork (executive committee) read in a very capable manner Mr. F. Hall's paper entitled "The Necessity for Co-operative Education."

The second conference was held at Edgworth on Saturday, July 15th, 1916, when Mr. James Monks (district secretary) read his paper entitled "Congress and After."

The third conference took place at Westhoughton on Saturday, October 14th, 1916. Mr. William Hall (secretary and manager, Walkden Society) read a very interesting and useful paper on "A Survey and Analysis of the Report and Statistics for the year 1915, of the Bolton District Co-operative Association."

The fourth conference met at Bolton on Saturday, January 13th, 1917, when the question of the position of the district hours and wages board was introduced by Mr. W. J. Bradley, Bolton (chairman of the Hours and Wages Board). Two resolutions regarding the operation of the board were submitted and carried. This will be a means of strengthening the work of the board. Mr. W. Bentley (secretary, Bolton society) gave a valuable address on "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax."

The executive committee have met on four occasions, and there has been a real desire to further the work of the association in the district. We sincerely trust that the good done in Bolton district will in the near future bring forth good fruit. What we require to-day is a solid front, a realisation of the principles of justice and equity, and a determination to carry out our work at all costs in the interest of the whole body of the movement. Whilst we are discussing after-war problems, let us not forget, not even for a single moment, the great and perplexing problems that confront us at the present time. We therefore appeal to all the leaders in co-operation in the Bolton district to infuse into the members that cheery and undaunted optimism of the pioneers of the movement, and show by their own example the only path that will lead to the ultimate victory of the workers over the terrible difficulties they have had to face in the past.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	5	8	8
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	12	10	6	„ Conferences and other Meetings	6	3	5
				„ Joint Meeting	0	18	5
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0	0
	£18	10	6		£18	10	6

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916 ..	11	10	0	By Conferences and other Meetings.	3	11	9
„ Subscriptions from Societies, 1916	11	10	0	„ Congress	3	10	7
				„ Wages and Hours Board	0	9	8
				„ Postages	0	19	0
				„ Secretary's Salary	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	12	9	0
	£23	0	0		£23	0	0

Audited—
W. BENTLEY

JAMES MONKS, Secretary.

No. 3.—CALDERDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. James Jackson (chairman), Midgley.	Mr. J. Thorp, Halifax.
„ A. Binns (secretary), 20, Dean Lane, Sowerby, Sowerby Bridge.	„ Charles Wood, Rastrick.
„ T. Ellison, Hebden Bridge.	„ William Pickles, Cornholme.
	Mrs. M. Johnson, Sowerby Bridge.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. Jos. Greenwood, Hebden Bridge.

The circle of time flows on, and here we are at the end of 1916 reviewing once again the situation. In spite of restrictions without parallel, there exists a greater need for education, and especially so for the committee-man, who holds and must direct the work of the co-operative movement. Economies of a very far-reaching nature must be dealt with, and forecasts for the future must be foreshadowed with an altogether different position for the womenkind, especially inside the stores and its adjuncts. Never has the stress of circumstances been as they now are, and it behoves every director not only to look at the present but to study and weigh the course of action that must guide him for the future working and management of the stores.

The first conference of the year was held at Walsden, the Clog Sundries being the recipients, when Mr. Hall's paper, "The Control of Raw Material and Prices," was read by Alderman Dawson. During the discussion many important principles were brought out, as follow:—Working men were paying their capital into private hands instead of using it themselves, the big insurance companies being especially cited. Another delegate made observations which are full of philosophy: Big successful firms did not go to the House of Commons, and co-operators must work out their own salvation. Democracy was ready to take all the profits, but not the losses; co-operators must take risks.

On July 8th, the Luddenden Society entertained the annual conference. "Co-operative Capital: Its Accumulation and Employment," by Mr. Hall, was under discussion. Reserve funds and depreciation were thoroughly thrashed out, and their utility and relationship to withdrawable capital. Members must be taught to reciprocate the directors' work, and if it pays the individual to control industry it must pay co-operators. Working-men's societies should aim at more fixed capital rather than allow all to be withdrawable.

A further paper was read by Mr. G. C. Moore (Mytholmroyd) at Nutclough, on October 28th, 1916, entitled "Education in the Co-operative Movement." A strong point emphasised was how to get to the average man in the street. Economics were, as a rule, a dry subject, yet the difficulty must be overcome.

Vast developments are going forth ; capital, being a great factor, must be found. Business needs specialisation more and more. Lectures must be ubiquitous and in every-day language in order to bring the rising generations to appreciate our work. The masses must be reached, knowledge and wisdom must be practical, and right action taught, then concerted action will increase our choice upon all things.

As a rule, the general ideas of nearly all men have been framed out of experiences gathered within comparatively narrow areas ; and general ideas so framed are far too rigid readily to admit the multitudinous and varied combinations of facts ; but since man is modifiable, and his modifications, like those of every creature, are ultimately determined by surrounding conditions, are in part constituted by social arrangements, it becomes requisite that we should acquaint ourselves with the laws to which organised beings in general conform. Unless this is done, errors must continually occur, both in thought and deed ; as these forces are slowly modifying each other through successive generations.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To	Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916.	6	0	0	By	Executive Meetings	3	14	10
"	Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	11	3	6	"	Conferences and other Meetings.	5	17	0
					"	Postages	0	4	1
					"	Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
					"	Cash in hand 31st Dec., 1916.	6	0	0
		£17	3	6			£17	3	6

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	5	18	1	By Conference.....	1	10	0
„ Interest	0	3	7	„ Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1916..	4	11	8
	£	6	1	8	£	6	1

A. BINNS, Secretary.

No. 4.—CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Cheetham (chairman), St. Helens.	Mr. C. W. Fawcett, Ruabon.
Councillor Wright (secretary), 56, Duke Street, Southport.	„ J. Jarman, Warrington.
Mr. H. J. Beeston, Liverpool.	„ W. Read New Brighton.
	„ W. Williams, Chester.

Representative from the Co-operative Union : Mr. S. C. Hughes, Brymbo.

Last year's annual report mentioned that the all-absorbing topic was "business as usual," and the saying is still equally applicable. Notwithstanding the tremendous uncertainty of supplies, the continued depletion of the staff at the call of the nation, the abnormal prices (caused in most cases by the profiteers), the vexatious methods sometimes adopted to obtain increased wages, yet the working of the societies has gone on with wonderful regularity, the members being convinced that everything possible had been done by the committees and officials to make it so, and therefore felt it their duty to bear those ills they had rather than fly to others they knew not of.

The membership, in some districts, has increased at an abnormal rate, surpassing even the most sanguine anticipations; especially is this the case in the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts, where it has more than quadrupled itself in less than six years. Although it was only natural to look for increased sales, considering the prevailing prices, yet increased membership and continued loyalty account for a large amount of it. To cope with the additional work female assistants continue to give of their best, but who will not be pleased to see the "boys" back again in their places?

The executive still discourage the opening of new societies, preferring rather the existing societies to extend their borders. A new society has been established in a district of North Wales, far remote from other societies, with every prospect of success; and in another part of the Principality an endeavour is being made to form a society with the object of selling goods as near cost price as possible. Curiosity will follow this new venture, for, if it succeeds, doubtless others will follow on the same lines.

Efforts have been made to induce the few small non-member societies to throw off their aloofness, and probably one, at least, will have done so before this report is published. For the sake of the members of such societies, continued efforts will be put forth by the executive to induce the remaining committees to join up.

HOURS AND WAGES BOARD.

The executive, for some time past, have acted also as the hours and wages board for the district, but to fall into line with the Congress resolution they arranged for a meeting of representatives from the various societies, to be held on 2nd December, 1916, in Liverpool, at which the model rules were adopted; and at Birkenhead, on 17th February, 1917, an hours and wages board was formed, with Mr. Upson, J.P. (Warrington), as chairman,

and the district secretary as secretary. It is to be hoped, however, that common sense will at all times prevail, and that the services of the board will never be required.

CONFERENCES.

The usual four quarterly conferences have been held. The first took place on 27th May, at Warrington, when Mr. Upson read his paper on "Real National Capital in Peril: a Protest and a Plea"; the protest being against the employment of children, and of lowering the school age to overcome the shortage of labour; and a plea, first, for the immediate raising of the school age to an irreducible minimum of fourteen, and a further raising to fifteen at the close of the war; and secondly, free secondary education for all.

The annual meeting was held at Hawarden on 26th August, when the district secretary read his paper on "Our Annual Stocktaking," in which each item in the annual statistics was considered and commented upon, and the work of the year brought under review. The voting for the executive resulted in the re-election of the present members, and of the district secretary, the latter for the twenty-ninth time.

At the third conference, held at Queensferry on 25th November, a paper by Mr. Pickup (Burnley) was read by Mr. Thompson (manager, Queensferry Society) on "The Rise in Price of Commodities, and the Action the Co-operative Movement should take with regard thereto."

The executive had arranged for a special conference to have been held in Chester in January, 1917, to protest against the unjust importation of extra taxation of the savings of members of co-operative societies, but, owing to the increased railway fares, &c., it was afterwards decided to adjourn it until 24th February, the date of the usual conference. At the Chester conference the resolution prepared by the Parliamentary Committee on "The Proposed Assessment of Co-operative Dividends with Income Tax," was moved by Mr. S. C. Hughes (Sectional Board), and seconded by Mr. Jarman (Executive). Several societies have sent a copy of the resolution to their M.P.'s. The district secretary also forwarded a copy to twenty-eight members of constituencies in this district, including the Premier, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Attorney-General, &c., and has received replies favourable and otherwise. It is as well to keep in touch with the Parliamentary representative, especially as co-operation is not directly represented, for what place the movement will take in the country after the war is over is a question which co-operators will be wise in beginning to consider.

The district secretary's cyclostyled returns have been, as usual, regularly distributed and keenly appreciated, as by this means comparisons in the progress of the societies can be seen at a glance.

To the societies which have so generously entertained the conferences, and to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for the continued permission to use their office in Liverpool for the executive meetings, the executive are very grateful.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..		6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	14	5	10	
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board		46	14	8	„ Conferences and other meetings ..	22	14	0	
					„ Propaganda Meetings	1	5	1	
					„ Hours and Wages Board	0	17	6	
					„ Stationery	0	8	6	
					„ Postages	2	8	0	
					„ Hire of Rooms	0	15	9	
					„ Secretary's Honorarium, 1915-16..	4	0	0	
					„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0	0	
		£52	14	8			£52	14	8

ROBERT WRIGHT, Secretary.

No. 5.—DEWSBURY.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Kershaw (chairman), Batley.	Mr. George Lucas, Ossett.
„ T. H. Thomson, J.P. (secretary), Dewsbury.	„ E. Stansfield, Morley.
„ S. Hall, Cleckheaton.	„ T. Gill, Wakefield.
	„ R. B. Liley, Horbury.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. T. Way, Wakefield.

Four quarterly conferences have been held during the year ; in addition a special conference on the subject of Income Tax was held at Dewsbury on Saturday, December 2nd, 1916. The February conference was held on the 19th at Morley. Mr. Armitage (Morley Society's Board) read Professor Hall's paper, "The Co-operative Control of Raw Material and Prices." The resolution contained therein was moved by Mr. Thomas Way, who emphasised the need of a great foreign trade with continental co-operators, as well as the vital importance of securing land on a large scale for the production of raw materials. Every speaker urged a strong forward policy on these lines, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The second conference was held at Batley on Saturday, May 20th. Mr. Thomas Goodwin (manager, Co-operative Wholesale Society Banking Department) read his paper, "Finance, and the War," bringing the figures and tables up to date as he proceeded. His reading was followed by a highly instructive discussion, and Mr. Goodwin replied to a number of interesting financial questions at the close. This was the first occasion on which the Banking Department had supplied a speaker at our district conference, and the result will, we feel sure, be of mutual benefit to the Co-operative Wholesale Society and local societies.

The August conference was held at Battysford on the 12th, when Mr. W. H. Childe, J.P. (Batley), read his paper on "District Amalgamations," in which he held that a thoroughly established society of moderate dimensions was more likely to be efficiently managed than a huge society embracing a whole district. Concentration schemes, he maintained, were not always an advantage, as they tended to curtail the personal element, thereby destroying the principle which had contributed largely to the movement's

success. A keen and sustained discussion followed, strong exception being taken by several speakers to some of the arguments advanced.

The result of the election was declared, the whole of the retiring members being re-elected.

The fourth conference was held on 11th November, at Batley, under the auspices of the Dewsbury District Laundry.

Mr. J. Kershaw (chairman of the executive) read Professor Hall's paper, "The Economic Results of the War and their Effects upon the Co-operative Movement." Several of the points raised were strongly criticised by several speakers, while all agreed that the securing of the sources of supply was the only means whereby co-operators could hope to reap the full advantage of their labours.

The special conference on Income Tax was held at Dewsbury, on 2nd December, when Mr. May's paper, "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax," was the subject for discussion.

Mr. R. B. Liley (executive) gave a *resumé* of the historical part of the paper, and read from page 10 onwards.

The resolution on page 22 was moved by the reader and carried with acclamation. The speeches of the various delegates were characterised by a strong feeling of the injustice of the proposal to tax societies' dividends, and the executive are satisfied that, so far as our district is concerned, no danger is apprehended from the action of our local Members of Parliament.

As a result of the Union's request for great attention to be centred on this most important matter, the executive framed the following resolution, and forwarded it to societies with a request that it be placed on the agenda for discussion at their quarterly or half-yearly meetings:—

That we, the members of the society, in general meeting, emphatically protest against the attempts now being made to unjustly tax the savings of co-operators, and pledge ourselves to use all legitimate means to defeat the objects of those whose chief aim is to hamper the welfare and progress of the co-operative movement.

The course suggested has been adopted by practically the whole of the societies in the district. Where requested, the executive have provided speakers, and in every case the resolution has received the unanimous support of the meetings. Some of the larger societies are organising an anti-income tax campaign, by holding meetings throughout their area, and by this means hope to still further spread the knowledge of the injustice of the agitation with which we are confronted.

During the year the district hours and wages board has been reconstituted on the basis of one representative from each society to whom full powers to negotiate on all matters bearing on hours, wages, and conditions, has been delegated by societies' boards. Through the efforts of the board it is hoped that all matters arising between employes and societies will in future be amicably arranged.

In common with all other localities, business has been carried on under great difficulties during the year. Increases in sales and membership have been general, while dividends have been much below pre-war level.

The rank and file have accepted the changed conditions splendidly, and have in many ways assisted committees in their difficult task. The various productive works have maintained their position well under the circumstances, and they, in common with the distributive societies, are looking to the time, which let us hope is not far distant, when work may be resumed under peace conditions.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	8	6 0
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	25	1 0	„ Conferences and other Meetings. .	8	11 4
			„ Joint Meeting	1	2 0
			„ Deputation to Wakefield	0	18 0
			„ Wages Board	0	3 6
			„ General Printing	1	1 8
			„ Stationery	0	5 6
			„ Postages	0	15 0
			„ Ordnance Maps	0	3 0
			„ Secretary's Honorarium (2 years) .	4	0 0
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0 0
	£31	1 0		£31	1 0

T. H. THOMSON, Secretary.

No. 6.—EAST YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. Goodenough (president), Castleford.	Mr. F. Bradley, Selby.
„ Jos. Nicholson (secretary) York.	„ T. Kirby, Market Weighton.
„ B. Webster, Leeds.	„ T. C. Collier, Scarborough.
„ W. McMahon, Beverley.	„ W. Mellor, Kippax.
	„ H. Knight, Hull.

Representative from Central Board : Mr. G. Goodenough, Castleford.

In again presenting to you the annual report of our conference association, we feel assured that we have reason to be satisfied with the progress made by the movement generally. We regret that the present crisis has taken from their homes and peaceful occupations so many of our members and employés to face the horrors and brutality of war, and we trust that very soon this unhappy state of affairs in our country's history may be ended, and that one and all may come safely through what to most must have been a very trying time.

Three executive meetings have been held at York, Malton, and Wetherby, and progress reported all round, the Settrington branch of the Malton Society proving a great advantage to the members in this small village and district. Wetherby reports increases in sales, membership, and capital; the opening of new central premises in the town has awakened a keener interest in the work of the society.

Conferences have been held at the invitation of the following societies :—

Selby, on Saturday, 12th February, 1916, when Mr. W. H. Shaw (Doncaster), read his paper, "Conciliation," which stated that there was too much competition and too little co-operation in the movement, and his object was to see if they could learn lessons from past experiences to guide them into better things for the future. With much regret they had to admit that labour troubles had been a dark spot in the movement, the chief cause being the stubbornness of committees to meet employes along with their accredited representatives.

The annual conference was held at Pocklington, on Saturday, 13th May, 1916, when Mr. Jackson (Co-operative Wholesale Society, Agricultural Department) introduced the question of a milk supply for co-operators, and suggested the setting up of depôts by the movement, where the milk could be collected and properly cleansed and pasteurised, then sent out to societies for use in the industrial centres. Delegates from Castleford, Market Weighton, Beverley, York, and Hull, entered into the debate, the Hull delegates advising the methods suggested rather than societies setting up dairies on their own account.

The quarterly conference was held (by kind permission of the Hon. Miss Lawley) in the Park at Escrick, on Saturday, 12th August, 1916. Mr. Goodenough introduced the Union's report, "A General Co-operative Survey," and pointed out the differences between the Central Board and the United Board, and how they were appointed, and defined their duties. Mr. Shaw opened the discussion, thanking the speaker, and thought Congress should be divided into sections, somewhat on the same lines as the British Association.

The fourth conference was held in the Dairy at Hull, on Saturday, 18th November, 1916, when Mr. McManus gave a very interesting demonstration of the various processes which the milk was put through before being sent out in pint bottles, which the society was selling about 44,000 per week, at 4½d. per quart. A very good discussion followed, in which Mr. Major, Masbro, and South Yorkshire joined, and as visitors thanked the East Yorkshire District and the Hull Society for the object lesson given them.

On Saturday, 9th December, 1916, at the invitation of the York Society, a special conference was held in the Co-operative Hall, York, when Mr. J. T. Bamforth, secretary (York Society), read Mr. H. J. May's paper, "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax." Delegates representing 90,000 members were present. Mr. Horton (Hull), commended the Union for bringing this matter before the societies, and pressed for the Parliamentary Committee to bring before the House of Commons the injustice of taxing the trade and dividend of co-operative societies. Mr. Manning thought the trade of the movement should be members' trade only, and so save societies from the tax. Messrs. Healy (Leeds), Hewitt (York), Hartley (York), Corcoran (Wetherby) and Firth (Castleford) also spoke in similar terms. The resolution, as set forth in the paper, was moved by the chairman (Mr. Goodenough),

carried unanimously, and forwarded to the various local M.P.'s, as well as to the Premier and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. A public meeting was held in the evening on the same subject, and similar resolutions were passed.

The question of overlapping between the York and Pocklington societies has arisen during the year, when representatives of the two societies had a meeting, and boundaries were mutually agreed upon and an agreement between them drawn up and signed by both parties.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	9	12	4
" " from North-Western Sectional Board.....	31	19	6	" Conferences and other Meetings.	18	15	7
				" Hours and Wages Board	0	19	0
				" Postages	0	12	7
				" Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				" Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916....	6	0	0
	£37	19	6		£37	19	6

J. NICHOLSON, Secretary.

No. 7.—HUDDERSFIELD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. Booth (chairman), Wooldale.	Mr. Joseph Bland, Huddersfield.
" L. Matthews (district secretary), 207, Leeds Road N., Huddersfield.	" H. Tinkler, Marsden.
" J. Pogson (statistical secretary), New Street, Netherton.	" J. Raisey, Close Hill.
" F. Ellis (treasurer), 3, College Street, Crosland Moor.	" T. May, Hillhouse.

Representative on Sectional Board : Mr. E. Booth, Wooldale, near Huddersfield.

Representative on Educational Committees' Association : Mr. J. S. Armitage, J. P.
7, Lidget Street, Lindley, Huddersfield.

Four conferences and four executive meetings have been held during the year. The attendance at the conferences has been very good. Below is a summary of them.

The first conference was held on Saturday, 20th May, 1916, in the Baptist Schoolroom, Golcar ; Mr. F. Westmoreland in the chair. The question of reducing the retail prices of goods during the war was introduced by Mr. B. Ibeson, on behalf of Crosland Moor Society, but very little interest was taken in the subject, and it was allowed to drop. The question of a Co-operative Wholesale Society tannery was introduced by Mr. Berry, on behalf of the Slaithwaite Society, and it was decided that the Wholesale Society be written to asking them to consider the establishment of a Co-operative Wholesale Society tannery. Mr. G. Goodenough (Castleford) then gave short addresses on the following subjects :—(1) "The place of Dividend in the Co-operative Movement, with special reference to Competition among

Societies"; (2) "The Extension of the Interest and Usefulness of Conferences"; (3) "A few stray thoughts on the A.U.C.E. Problem."

The second conference was held on Saturday, 22nd July, 1916, in the Clara Street Schoolroom; Mr. T. May in the chair. Mr. W. Marsden (Hillhouse Committee) read a paper specially prepared on "The Sugar Question." Mr. Mastin (Co-operative Wholesale Society) was present at the conference, and he was able to give some useful information regarding sugar.

The third conference was held on Saturday, 14th October, 1916, in the Delph Hill Schoolroom (Paddock Hill Top); Mr. Erde Jessop in the chair. Mr. John Pogson presented his statistical report, which was heartily accepted. Mr. Allen Baxter (Co-operative Union) read Mr. Hall's paper, "The Economic Results of the War and their Effect on the Co-operative Movement." The executive were glad of the privilege of meeting Mr. Baxter.

The fourth conference was held on Saturday, 27th January, 1917, in the Woodhouse Mills (William Thomson and Sons); Mr. Allen Gee, J.P., in the chair. A vote of sympathy was extended to Councillor George Thomson, J.P., in his illness, and best wishes for a speedy recovery to health and strength. Mr. J. Bradshaw (secretary to the North-Western Section) was present on this occasion, and read Alderman F. Hayward's paper, "Should Co-operative Societies pay Income Tax on the amount returned to Members as Dividend?" The resolution drawn up and recommended by the Parliamentary Committee was then unanimously adopted, and copies of the same were sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the borough member. Mr. Bradshaw had a very good grasp of the case, and we are hoping to have further visits from him.

On 16th December, a mass meeting, under the auspices of the Executive Committee and local Trades Council, was held in the Town Hall, Huddersfield; Mr. E. Booth in the chair. Addresses were given by Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., and Mr. Theodore Armstrong (Co-operative Wholesale Society Lecturer, Manchester). The following resolution was moved by Mr. Etchells (Huddersfield Educational Committee), and seconded by Mr. Wilfrid Whiteley (Trades and Labour Council), and passed unanimously. Copies were sent to the Prime Minister, Lord Devonport (Food Controller), and to the borough member:—

That this meeting of the citizens of Huddersfield, convened by the co-operative societies, the trades and labour councils, and working-class organisations, views with very grave concern the present inflated prices of foodstuffs, fuel, &c., and offers a vigorous protest against further exploitation by the shipping and trading communities. It further calls upon the Government to at once take effective steps to prevent any further unjustifiable rise in prices, and keep them as near the level of cost of production as possible.

We are pleased to report that the following societies have joined the Co-operative Union during the year:—Junction House, Slaithwaite; Central Working Men's, Golcar.

The executive are hoping to visit a few of the outlying societies during the summer, when travelling will be safer than at present.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	4	10	6
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	13	13	6	„ Conferences and other Meetings .	6	14	2
				„ Postages	0	6	4
				„ Hire of Rooms	0	2	6
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916....	6	0	0
	£19	13	6		£19	13	6

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand	6	3	10	By Conferences	4	2	6
„ „ from Societies	7	8	0	„ Delegate to Congress	1	0	0
				„ Deputations	0	6	6
				„ Conference Paper	0	6	6
				„ Postages	0	12	8
				„ Hire of Room	0	2	6
				„ Subscription to <i>International Co-operative Bulletin</i>	0	8	0
				„ Cash in hand	6	13	2
	£13	11	10		£13	11	10

Audited—
J. POOSON.
J. RAISEY.
Treasurer—F. ELLIS.

L. MATTHEWS, Secretary.

No. 8.—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE, AND DISTRICT.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. H. Fletcher (chairman), Macclesfield.	Councillor William Hassall, Leek.
„ George Harding (secretary), 82, Samuel Street, Crewe.	Mr. J. Carding, Leek
„ S. Hunt, Stoke-on-Trent.	„ John Casson, Stockport.
	„ John Symonds, Silverdale.
	„ J. Compston, Kids Grove, Staffs.

Representative on Sectional Board: Alderman F. Hayward, Burslem.

It is with pleasure that we present our annual report to Congress of our effort in the above district to sustain the interest of the societies and members of the great movement of which we form a part. We are still amidst the environment of war, and during the year the terrible conflict has dominated every aspect of social life. Many of our members and the young men of the families connected with the movement have loyally answered their country's call for their services, and are either in the fighting line or in training at home. No doubt the restriction of shipping has given considerable anxiety to not a few of our societies, yet we are pleased to note that the restrictions have not interfered so much with the progress of the movement as we thought it would do. While some societies have had their trade curtailed, others have found their trade and membership increased, so the movement is more than keeping its own in these dark and troublesome times. We are hoping and trusting that the nations of the world may very soon dwell together in peace and unity.

The executive have held four meetings during the year. They have also taken up the Income Tax question, and sent circulars to every society in the district, requesting the committee to arrange for a meeting of their mem-

bers ; also for a member of the executive to attend and address the members on the subject. Burslem Society has held several meetings ; also Butt Lane, Leek, and Congleton. These meetings have been well attended by the members, and no doubt good result has been the outcome.

Two conferences have been held during the year. The first was held at Poynton, on Saturday, August 26th, 1916, the subject discussed being "The High Prices of Commodities." Mr. Compston read his paper, in the course of which several points were given for discussion. The high prices were attributable to many causes : Committees should be more loyal ; a high standard of efficiency should be maintained amongst employés ; the cost of production being largely influenced by the cost of raw material, it was necessary to get at the source of supply.

Mr. Compston, replying to the discussion, said he had not offered any solution in his paper, but had advocated many things. Development would have to take place on a large scale before they could touch the land. They must let the poorer people understand that the movement stood for something more than high dividends.

The result of the election for the executive was declared as follows :—Messrs. Carding (Leek), Casson (Stockport), Compston (Butt Lane), Symonds (Silverdale), Hunt (Burslem), and Fletcher (Macclesfield). The secretary, J. Harding, was re-elected.

The second conference was held at Silverdale, on Saturday, December 9th, 1916, subject : "The Income Tax Fight."

Alderman F. Hayward (Sectional Board), in a paper "Should Co-operators pay Income Tax on the amount returned as Dividend ?" said there was no subject of greater importance to the movement at the present time. The general idea which seemed to obtain was the opinion which had been formed through reading garbled statements in newspaper leading columns, or through reports given of meetings held under the auspices of traders' associations, chambers of commerce, and property owners' associations. It was obvious that the interests of these organisations were opposed to the co-operative movement, and a public opinion manufactured by them, and allowed to go unchallenged, would have a most detrimental effect on the future of co-operation ; it was important, therefore, that they should enlist the active support of every co-operator in this campaign. The very existence of the movement was threatened. Here was an opportunity for the leaders of the movement to prove that they were determined that the heritage they had received from men and women of noble character should be handed down to posterity unimpaired and improved.

The resolution of protest prepared by the Joint Parliamentary Committee was moved by Alderman Hayward, seconded by Mr. Rowell (Stockport), and carried unanimously.

Several delegates took part in the discussion, all evincing keenness in their support of the arguments raised, and urging the necessity of a strong combined opposition to the proposals alluded to.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1916 ..	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	9	11 5
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	23	18 9	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	10	13 6
„ Fees Returned	0	7 6	„ Hours and Wages Board	1	4 7
			„ Postages	0	16 9
			„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0 0
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916....	6	0 0
	£30	6 3		£30	6 3

GEORGE HARDING, Secretary.

NO. 9.—MANCHESTER.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Daniel Pogson (chairman), Burnage.	Councillor Allen Shaw, J.P., Newton Hyde.
Councillor James Thompson, J.P. (secretary), Ashton.	„ Edgar Whiteley, Burnage.
Mr. W. H. Kirkland, Pendleton (for Eccles Society).	Mr. William Hibbert, Newton Heath.

Representative on the Sectional Board : Mr. James Pollitt, Swinton.

Representative of the Educational Committees' Association :

Mr. J. F. Ashworth, Urmston.

The Executive have arranged and carried out the following conferences :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Writer and Reader.
1916.			
April 8	Manchester	Industrial Life Assurance	Mr. Leah (C.I.S.).
July 8	Marple.....	Excess Profits as they affect Co-operative Societies.	Mr. Cooper (Co-operative Union).
Oct. 14	Prestwich	Food Prices in War Time.....	Mr. Anderson's paper read by Mr. Edgar (Droylsden).
Nov 25	Manchester	Co-operative Societies and Income Tax.	Mr. Whiteley (M. & S.) read Mr. May's paper.
1917.			
Jan. 13	Droylsden	Dividend	Mr. Whittle (Preston).

At the first conference, besides the reading of and discussion on Mr. Leah's paper, the election of the executive took place as above, except that Mr. George Wood was elected statistical secretary, but afterwards resigned on removing to Lytham.

At the second conference Mr. Cooper gave the delegates many useful points on the "Excess Profits Duty," the conference resolving itself mostly into the form of question and answer.

At the third conference, after a useful discussion on "Food Prices in War Time," the following resolution was passed :—

That this conference condemns the Government in delaying until the opening of Parliament their action with regard to the control of wheat, and protests against its conduct in not taking control of all foodstuffs.

A special conference was held at Manchester on 25th November, on the important question of "Income Tax," when at the conclusion of the reading of Mr. May's paper, Mr. Whiteley moved the resolution at the end of the paper as follows :—

That this conference of delegates, representing 140,297 co-operators in the County of Lancaster, enters its emphatic protest against the persistent misrepresentations which form the chief part of the organised agitation of private traders' associations of the country against the co-operative movement, especially in relation to the question of assessment of Income Tax. It desires to call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the artificial character of the resolutions and memorials which are constantly being submitted to it by these associations and by their indirect representatives in Parliament, and declares its conviction that this agitation is dictated either by ignorance of the facts and the law, or by a hatred of working-class collectivism. Further, that while raising no objection to the inclusion of co-operative societies in the reference to a representative committee of enquiry into the general question of Income Tax, which the Government propose to set up after the war, this conference expresses the opinion that in view of the authoritative basis on which the position of co-operative societies has been placed by successive administrations, both Liberal and Conservative, the Government should more definitely repudiate the misrepresentations of the traders' associations, and assert the undoubted rights of co-operators to equal treatment with all other citizens before the law.

At the fourth quarterly conference held at Droylsden, after the reading of the paper on "Dividends," the following resolution was passed :—

That this conference is of the opinion that the time is opportune for societies to reduce their dividends by an amount equal to at least 25 per cent of their average dividends, and recommends the Co-operative Union to appeal to societies generally to take immediate action with a view to an all-round reduction being agreed upon.

The Chairman having made a promise that the request of several delegates should be carried out, the executive sent out the following questions to all the societies :—(1) Are you agreeable to reduce your dividend to at least 2s. in the £ ? ; (2) If not, please let us have any alternative suggestion you may desire to make to meet the situation ; (3) Are you willing to send your manager or secretary, in addition to the chairman, to meet the executive

of the district at an early date to formulate a scheme for the reduction of dividend in view of the Excess Profits Duty ?

A defence committee has been formed, mainly for political work amongst the Manchester societies which the Co-operative Union is not able to take up, but in the propaganda work, *re* Income Tax, &c., they are working jointly with the district executive. The societies have been circularised to take the matter up strongly, and hold meetings of their members, the executive having placed their services at the disposal of the societies as speakers and propagandists. Many successful meetings have already been held.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	6	13	7
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	21	15	4	„ Conferences and other Meetings..	5	15	0
				„ Hours and Wages Board	1	19	11
				„ Propaganda, &c.	0	19	8
				„ Postages	1	4	7
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Durrant's Press Cuttings	3	3	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0	0
	£27	15	4		£27	15	4

JAS. THOMPSON, Secretary.

NO. 10. —NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. S. Blakeborough, J.P. (chairman), Burnley.	Mr. A. Higham, Darwen.
„ John R. Shuttleworth (secretary), Accrington.	„ J. H. Hothersall, Rishton.
„ Joseph Snape, Padiham.	„ H. Hurst, Oswaldtwistle.
Councillor R. Hargreaves, Barrowford.	„ R. Brooks, Barnoldswick.
	„ J. A. Whalley, Blackburn.

Representative on Sectional Board : Councillor Wm. Dewhurst, Colne.

During the past year we have held four conferences and four executive meetings. The conferences have been very well attended, and great interest has been taken in the subjects discussed.

The first conference was held at Clayton-le-Moors on Saturday, 26th February, 1916, when Councillor Parker, J.P., read his paper entitled "Conciliation Boards in the Co-operative Movement." The paper was very well thought out and carefully handled, which created a very good discussion.

The second conference was held at Grimshaw Park, Blackburn, on Saturday, 13th May, 1916, when Mr. Haydock read Mr. Deeley's paper on "Some Thoughts on Co-operation." No doubt the conference would have been much more interesting had the writer himself attended the conference to answer (or reply) to the points raised by the various delegates.

The third conference was held at Colne on Saturday, 14th October, 1916, when Mr. Pickup (secretary of the Burnley Society) read his paper

entitled "The Rise in Prices of Commodities, and the Action the Co-operative Movement should take with regard thereto." The subject was carefully handled, and created a very good discussion; the reply thereto was very good at this conference. Mr. Cooper (Clayton-le-Moors), who has held the position of secretary for upwards of twenty years, made the announcement that he had decided to retire. Two nominations were sent in; Mr. J. R. Shuttleworth was virtually elected to the position vacated by Mr. Cooper.

The fourth conference was held at Rishton on Saturday, 25th November, 1916, when Mr. Pickup (manager and secretary Rishton Society) read Mr. W. W. Whittle's paper entitled "Dividend," and Mr. Pickup was congratulated, both for his reading the paper effectively, and also for his replies.

My executive are pleased to record that two societies in this district, viz., Low Moor (Nelson Street) and Low Moor (Union Street), have amalgamated. With regard to the trouble caused by the amalgamation of Salterforth, we have had several meetings with the Boundaries Sub-committee of the Co-operative Union Ltd., and have also visited the district concerned. After carefully considering the question with regard to the dispute in the above case, this executive disagrees with the findings of the Boundaries Sub-committee, and hopes that our Earby and Barnoldswick friends will abide by the decision sent on. We are sorry to report that at this time when committees of management have so much anxiety with regard to high prices and shortage of commodities, that the A.U.C.E. officials should make application to five societies in the district for a war bonus of 5s. and 2s. 6d. This, however, was settled by arbitration; the award given by Mr. Lynden Macassy, K.C., was 3s., 2s., and 1s. in January of this year. The above officials have made another application on the same five societies. We do not understand why they should single out these societies again. It would be very interesting to know, but up to the time of writing they do not appear to be able to satisfy the executive, which has caused us to have several meetings of both the executive and the Hours and Wages Board, over and above our usual executive meetings. We have also had a joint conference with the Rossendale District Association, held at Nelson in September (for committee-men only), when Mr. Briggs (secretary, Leeds Society), read his paper entitled "The Duties and Responsibilities of Committee-men." It was a very good conference, and was the first of its kind in this district, and, from the opinions expressed, there should be at least two conferences of this kind each year.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1916	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	8	18 7
„ Cash due to District	11	16 4	„ Conferences and other Meetings	7	6 10
			„ Amalgamation Meetings	1	7 0
			„ Postages	0	3 11
	£17	16 4		£17	16 4

J. R. SHUTTLEWORTH, Secretary.

LOCAL FUND, 31ST DECEMBER, 1915.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward . . .	53	10 6	By Hours and Wages Board Meetings	18	9 0
„ Grant from Burnley Society . . .	18	13 3	„ Congress Delegate	3	17 9
			„ Deputation	0	7 9
			„ Caretaker	0	10 0
Audited—			„ Secretary's Honorarium	4	0 0
J. BRADSHAW.			„ Expenses	1	10 1
			„ Postage	0	12 10
			„ Balance	42	16 4
	£72	3 9		£72	3 9

LOCAL FUND, 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward.....	42	16 4	By Hours and Wages Board Meetings	45	5 5
„ Interest from Investment.....	2	19 10	„ Joint Conferences	3	19 9
„ Due to Association	13	7 3	„ Congress Delegate	4	1 3
			„ Secretary's Honorarium	4	0 0
Audited—			„ Expenses	1	12 10
J. BRADSHAW.			„ Postage	0	4 2
	£59	3 5		£59	3 5

No. 11.—NORTH LANCASHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Kay, J.P. (chairman), Longridge.	Mr. John Gorton, Preston.
„ J. Parr, J.P. (secretary), Blackpool.	„ R. Richmond, Fleetwood.
„ Hoggarth, Lancaster.	„ R. Whitehead, Blackpool.

Representative from Sectional Board: Mr. W. Gregory, J.P., Preston.

The past year has been one of continued progress in co-operative membership and trade, demonstrating that co-operation has been powerfully attractive in the district during this terrible war time, because of its sound economic principles.

Some of the societies have decided to sell their goods at the keenest competitive price, and in this manner help to counteract the unjust incidence of the Excess Profits Duty, and at the same time give an immediate benefit to the poorer members. Lower dividends may therefore be expected.

The first conference of the year was held at Higher Walton, on 26th February, and was well attended by delegates from all parts of the district. The secretary (Mr. Parr) read Mr. Hall's paper on "The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices," after which there was a good discussion, and a resolution approving of the Union's campaign for securing a greater control of raw materials and prices, and asking them to continue the work of education and propaganda, was carried unanimously.

The second conference was held at Southport on 27th May, when Mr. Foster read an appropriate and thoughtful paper entitled "Co-operation after the War," the various ideas suggested provoking a good debate.

The annual conference was held at Blackpool on 26th August, and after the adoption of the report and statement, an excellent paper was read by Mr. Bygate, on "A Call to Duty." The subject developed an animated

controversy, one of the principal points of which showed the growing need of co-operative representation in Parliament.

The last conference of the year was held at Bamber Bridge on 25th November, when Mr. W. Gregory, J.P., read Mr. May's paper on "Co-operation and Income Tax," and, after an instructive discussion, it was decided to send the resolution of protest to the members of Parliament representing the various divisions in the district.

The executive committee have also initiated a protest campaign amongst the individual societies against the taxation of co-operative dividends, and offered to send speakers to address members' meetings organised by them, free of charge. It is hoped that full advantage will be taken of this desirable offer, so that the members may have an opportunity of learning the just reasons of our opposition to the proposal.

The Hours and Wages Board has held four meetings during the year, and has done much useful work by comparing rates of wages and hours of labour worked by the respective societies in the district, as well as reporting fresh demands made by employes and settlements arranged, which has been mutually advantageous.

It is gratifying to us to know that the Lancaster Congress passed off so well, and to feel that a member of our E.C. (Mr. Gregory), carried out the honourable duty of president so effectively.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	11	17	3
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board	35	5	1	„ Conferences and other Meetings..	14	19	4
				„ Wages and Hours Board	1	13	6
				„ Handbook and Reception Committee Meetings ..	3	16	6
				„ General Printing	0	6	6
				„ Stationery	0	1	0
				„ Postages	0	11	0
				„ Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st December, 1916	6	0	0
	£41	5	1		£41	5	1

J. PARR, Secretary.

NO. 12.—NORTH LONSDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Lewney, J.P. (chairman), Dalton-in-Furness.	Mr. H. W. Hague, Carnforth.
„ G. Richardson (secretary), Barrow.	„ J. H. Parr, Kendal.
„ J. Ireland, Ulverston.	„ W. Britton Jones, Millom.
	„ W. Lyon, J.P., Barrow.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. W. Swindlehurst, Barrow.

Your committee, in submitting their report for the year, have again pleasure in recording continued progress and stability of the societies in

general throughout the district. Situated as our district is, in an important munitions area, the energies of committees and managers have been severely taxed in obtaining supplies for their increased business, this, coupled with depleted staffs, has proved a serious matter.

Your executive committee have been in close touch with matters pertaining to the welfare of the district during the year.

Seven executive meetings (four conferences and three meetings of the Hours and Wages Board) have been held.

The first conference was held at Backbarrow on 27th May, 1916, when Mr. Wilkinson read a paper on "The Industrial Problem," and much information was given *re* societies and Excess Profits Duty.

The annual meeting was held at Kendal on 26th August, 1916. Mr. Airey (secretary, Kendal Society) introduced the subject "Co-operation after the War," which evoked an interesting discussion. The district report was adopted, and societies appointed to form district executive committee and district secretary were re-elected.

The third conference was held at Dalton on 25th November, 1916, and Mr. Burrow (Dalton Committee) gave a *résumé* of Mr. J. H. May's paper "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax." The matter was keenly discussed, but no resolution was submitted pending further meetings on this subject.

The fourth conference was held at Barrow on 27th January, 1917, to consider the question of "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax." The meeting was well attended, and Mr. Swindlehurst (Sectional Board) introduced the subject and gave a clear and comprehensive view of the position as indicated by Mr. May's paper.

The resolution suggested by the Parliamentary Committee was agreed to, and copies forwarded to the local members of Parliament and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Societies were advised to take up this question strongly with their members.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.			Expenditure		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st Jan., 1916.....	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	9	12 10
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	30	13 4	„ Sectional Conference	2	15 0
			„ Conferences and other Meetings	8	3 7
			„ Joint Meetings	5	17 9
			„ Hours and Wages Board	1	5 8
			„ Postages	0	18 6
			„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0 0
			„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0 0
	£36	13 4		£36	13 4

GEORGE RICHARDSON, Secretary.

No. 13.—OLDHAM.

Executive Committee.

Councillor F. Houghton, J.P. (president), Oldham.	Mr. A. E. Dickin, Stalybridge.
Mr. William Hall (district secretary), Ashton-under-Lyne.	Councillor H. Sheard, J.P., Ashton.
„ R. Hadfield, Oldham.	Mr. David Lawton, J.P., Greenfield.
	„ H. Whitehead, Dobcross.
	„ J. T. Gregory, Oldham.

Representative from the Educational Committees' Association :

Mr. J. W. Barbrook, Oldham.

Representative on Sectional Board : Councillor F. Houghton, J.P., Oldham.

The devastating war still continues, and this is the third report since it started. We hope the next report may record a victory for freedom and right. During the past year the Hours and Wages Board has been formed, and important matters adjusted. We have held four conferences, and the executive four meetings. It has been a period of anxiety and sorrow. Difficulties caused by depleted stocks have been intensified by a scarcity in some commodities, and inflated prices generally. It is, however, somewhat satisfactory to note that, owing to the efficient organisation and financial stability of the movement, co-operators have received a fair share in the distribution of the necessities of life.

The subjects introduced at conferences and subsequent discussions have been most helpful. They revealed the fact that, although we cannot with certainty forecast after-war problems, co-operators are preparing to adapt themselves to the changed circumstances and conditions that must inevitably follow an upheaval of this character.

The Excess Profits Tax has been accepted under great restraint, and a prospective attack on dividend for income tax purposes is regarded as a challenge to the movement to defend a system of trading which is lawful, equitable, and peaceful.

Educational work has been conducted with an earnest desire to propagate and consolidate the principles of co-operation. Lectures, debates, and concerts, varied in character for adults and children, have been a source of attraction. Smoking concerts for men are generally popular.

The Women's Guild has been well represented at conferences. The high price of provisions, the scarcity of sugar and potatoes have taxed the resources of societies, and caused serious reflection and trouble.

The first conference was at Delph on Saturday, 13th May. Mr. A. E. Turner (Co-operative Insurance Society) laid the claims of that society before the conference in a most lucid manner, and pointed out the advantages to co-operators by insuring in their own society. Declaration of election of societies to be represented on the executive was made, and also the re-election of secretary.

The second conference was held at Diggle on Saturday, 15th July, Mr. J. Bradshaw (secretary, North-Western Section) read Professor Hall's

paper on "The Economic Results of the War and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement." An interesting and profitable discussion ensued.

The third conference was held at Crompton on Saturday, 28th October. Mr. James Byron (Crompton) read a paper on "A Consideration of Our Aims and Ideals." He said success must not be measured by high dividends, sales, or membership alone, but by the development and acceptance of high principles. It was a most necessary and timely warning.

The fourth conference was held at Middleton on Saturday, 10th February, 1917. Mr. William Taylor (secretary, Middleton Society) read a paper on "Present Problems of the Co-operative Movement." He asked how shall we avoid any further liability to excess profits duty? and made three suggestions, viz.: (1) Increase in membership to keep down rate per member below pre-war standard; (2) all round reduction of dividend; (3) no dividend in certain specified departments.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	4	11	11
" Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	15	16	8	" Conferences and other Meetings ..	4	14	6
				" Hours and Wages Board	3	7	0
				" Stationery	0	4	6
				" Postages	0	18	9
				" Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				" Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0	0
	£21	16	8		£21	16	8

WILLIAM HALL, Secretary.

NO. 14.—ROCHDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. Holt (chairman), Rochdale.

" A. Johnson (secretary), Heywood.

" Thos. Rigby, Bury.

" C. A. Cook, Wardle.

Mr. Wm. Holt, Milnrow.

" Jas. Hunting, Elton, near Bury.

" J. H. Barrett, New Hey.

" J. T. Greenwood, Heywood.

Representative on Sectional Board: Mr. Benj. Woolfenden, Rochdale.

Representative on Educational Committees' Association:

Mr. J. C. Hill, Bury.

We commenced the year 1916 invigorated by the good work done in 1915, with a determination to "carry on" the true co-operative ideals.

Four executive meetings and five conferences have been held during the term under review, the questions dealt with having a direct bearing on the abnormal condition of things obtaining.

A capital start was made with Mr. Goodwin's paper, "Finance and the War," read by Councillor Thomas Rigby, at Littleborough, 22nd January, 1916, many ideas of practical value being brought out in discussion of same.

At New Hey, 15th April, Mr. N. H. Cooper (cashier, Co-operative Union) read Mr. Whitehead's paper on "The Excess Profits Duty." Full advantage was taken of the reader's expert knowledge of the subject, and good points

were picked up by the delegates, indicating the line of action to be taken in dealing with the problem.

The annual meeting was held at Summerseat on Saturday, 22nd July, 1916, when the officers were elected for the ensuing twelve months.

Professor F. Hall, M.A., read his Congress paper "The Economic Results of the War and their Effect on the Co-operative Movement." A good all-round conference, in which was emphasised the great need for education in the movement. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

That this conference requests the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to formulate a national policy as suggested in Professor Hall's Congress paper, and arrange for the adequate discussion and carrying out of same.

A special conference was held on 14th October, at Tottington, Mr. J. Bradshaw dealing with Mr. May's paper "Co-operative Societies and Income Tax." The remarks of the delegates and Mr. Bradshaw's trenchant and optimistic reply gave a true reflex of the fighting spirit of the movement in regard to this attempted imposition.

The last of a very fine series was held at Rochdale on 23rd December, when Mr. W. W. Whittle's paper, "Dividend," was submitted by Mr. N. H. Cooper.

The question of uniform district dividends was brought well to the front, and it was pointed out that the executive had already moved in this direction with encouraging results. It was resolved: "That the executive group the societies of the district, in convenient areas, to discuss the whole matter, with a view to fixing uniform district dividends."

We are pleased to note another accession to the Union, i.e., Milnrow Conservative Co-operative Society.

Our thanks are due to the societies that have so willingly entertained the various conferences, to the writers and readers of papers, also the chairmen, all of whom have assisted in strengthening the bond of fellowship existing in the district.

Several public meetings have been held under our auspices in connection with the Raw Materials and Income Tax campaigns with good results.

To sum up, a year's work in which the district has fully justified its existence by educating its membership in the things that matter, in preparation for the prospective "big push" of the capitalist traders, who will find us ready not only to defend but to attack.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0 0	By Executive Meetings	6	9 9
" Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	19	7 9	" Conferences and other Meetings.	9	9 11
			" Hours and Wages Board.....	0	6 9
			" Stationery	0	2 9
			" Postages	0	18 7
			" Secretary's Honorarium	2	0 0
			" Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0 0
	£25	7 9		£25	7 9

ALF. JOHNSON, Secretary.

No. 15.—ROSSENDALE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Longworth (chairman), Ramsbottom.	Mr. Robert H. Hamer, Haslingden.
„ J. W. Hargreaves (secretary), Has- lingden.	„ W. L. Whitehead, Waterfoot.
	„ W. H. Canham, Waterfoot.
	„ T. Haworth, Bacup.

Representative on Sectional Board : Mr. J. W. Hargreaves, Haslingden.

The year 1916 will stand out not only as one of the years of the great war, but also as a year of high prices and continual scarcity in some commodities. Several societies in the district have felt the pressure of these matters, and in addition in some cases excess profits have also had to be paid to the Government. To us it looks almost ridiculous that where no profit can possibly be made (for how can anyone make a profit out of themselves), they should be liable to a tax. What societies really do is that they make a deferred discount or saving, which is quite a different thing, and for this they have never been assessed before. However, we suppose there is no alternative but to pay and look as pleasant as possible under the circumstances. During the year the Hours and Wages Board has been reorganised, and now consists of a representative from each society in the district. It has taken over, wherever societies have been willing, not only wages, &c., in connection with the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, but also those connected with the craft unions. The question of amalgamation has also been to the fore again, and although nothing definite has been done, the matter is still being pressed upon the attention of the members. All societies in the district are in membership with the Co-operative Union. Trade has on the whole kept fairly good, the cotton trade especially, a shortage of workers being the only drawback within the trade, with the possible exception that bad material has in some cases been supplied to the operatives who have not failed to complain when such has been the case. Societies are, of course, taking more money, but this has been largely due to enhanced prices, although in most cases we are glad to see they have increased their membership. We might say much more, but this is war time, and local secretaries have been particularly enjoined to cut down their reports, both on account of the shortage of paper and the high price at which it at present rules. The executive have met four times during the year, as well as before each conference, and many important matters have been dealt with by them.

The first conference for the year was held at Tunstead on 15th January, when Mr. W. Lander (director, Co-operative Wholesale Society) read one of his papers on "Production." Instead of following the usual custom and confining himself to the paper, Mr. Lander gave the gathering a breezy address upon the same topic. There was a capital attendance, which followed the remarks of the speaker with keen interest. We have no doubt that the meeting would do good, although there was considerable opposition to some of the statements made by Mr. Lander.

On 15th April, Crawshawbooth entertained the conference, and a capital address was delivered by Professor Hall on "The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices." In a masterly manner the whole question was dealt with as it affected co-operators, and for three-quarters of an hour Professor Hall outlined the policy that should be followed in seeking to attain to this desirable end. The discussion was an excellent one, taken part in by a good number of delegates, and the Co-operative Union resolution on the subject of raw materials received the unanimous assent of the meeting.

The third conference of the year was held at Ramsbottom on 15th July, when Mr. James Pollitt (Eccles) gave a masterly address on "Amalgamation." He traced the movement through all its modern developments, and then went on to show how in the case of small societies amalgamation was an absolute necessity if progress had to be made. Special reference was made to local matters, and it was shown that the question was a most desirable one locally. An excellent discussion followed, and the conference was voted a success.

The fourth conference was held at Rawtenstall on 21st October, when Mr. Arthur Pickup read an original paper on "The Rise in Prices." He gave the reason for the present position as we find it to-day, and appealed to his hearers to back up co-operation, which was the only hope the workers had of getting from commodities their fair margin, and securing that the workers received back again into their own pockets this difference between the producer and consumer. It was a most interesting and valuable paper, and was followed by a keen and excellent discussion.

There has also during the year been two joint conferences between the North-East Lancashire and Rossendale districts, both of which have been highly successful. One was held at Nelson, and the other at Rawtenstall.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	4	0	4
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	18	17	7	„ Conferences and other Meetings..	8	8	2
				„ Joint Conference with N.E. Lancashire	3	7	7
				„ General Printing	0	3	0
				„ Postages	0	18	6
				„ Secretary's Salary	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916....	6	0	0
	<u>£24</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>£24</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	11	1	7	By Cash paid for Teas.....	12	0	4
„ Balance due to Secretary.....	3	10	4	„ Stamps	0	10	0
				„ Deputation	0	2	0
Audited—A. J. Joy.				„ Hours and Wages Board	1	19	7
	£14	11	11		£14	11	11

J. W. HARGREAVES, Secretary.

No. 16.—SOUTH YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Gillies (chairman), Doncaster.	Mr. J. Irving, Barnsley.
„ J. Dimberline (secretary), Darnall, Sheffield.	„ L. Holmes, Goole.
„ G. Major (statistical secretary), Rotherham.	„ E. Cusworth, Killamarsh.
„ J. Greaves, Chesterfield.	„ J. C. Kenworthy, Deepcar, near Sheffield.

Representative from Sectional Board : Mr. G. Major, Rotherham.

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1916.			
19th Feb.	Barnsley	Finance and the War	Mr. Goodwin, C.W.S. Bank,
8th April ..	Sheffield. ...	(For Secretaries) Excess Profits Duty.	Messrs. Forster and Rose.
22nd April ...	Doncaster ...	(For Secretaries) Excess Profits Duty.	Messrs. Forster and Rose.
13th May	Brightside and Carbrook	Hours and Wages Board .	Mr. Laing.
20th May ...	Killamarsh ..	Excess Profits Duty	Mr. Cooper, Co-op. Union.
26th August .	Sheffield	District Reports	Messrs. Major and Laing.
25th Nov.	Workshop	Income Tax (Mr. May's paper).	Mr. G. Major.

We have pleasure in presenting our thirty-eighth annual report to Congress.

Eight executive committee meetings and seven conferences have been held, a list of the latter is appended.

The first, at which Mr. Goodwin gave his paper, was very well attended. The reader of the paper pointed out it was important to the movement that all societies should make it easy for the members to bring all their savings to the society as it would be needed for the development of trade, and so bring more under co-operative control. If this was not done, even the money of co-operators might be used by others against their own movement.

The executive committee arranged a conference of secretaries of societies in the district, to consider the question of Excess Profits Duty. Messrs. Forster and Rose undertook to introduce the subject. There were so many points brought forward and questions asked that information had to be asked for from the Co-operative Union; the conference was adjourned. It met at Doncaster for the second meeting. Mr. Cooper (from the Union office) was present, and gave very useful information.

The Hours and Wages Board conference put the district into working

order, and a guarantee fund was formed, this to take effect until the Congress formed one.

Mr. Cooper also attended our conference at Killamarsh, and gave his paper, "Excess Profits Duty, and its Application to Co-operative Societies." Information that was very much needed by those who have to govern the societies in the district was imparted by Mr. Cooper; the points given by him have been of service to the delegates.

At the August conference Mr. G. Major gave his statistical report; it was debated very well.

Mr. Laing (secretary, Hours and Wages Board) gave a full report of the work done by that body during the year. The delegates were pleased that at last we had in the district formed a body that would work for the improvement of all concerned—hours, wages, conditions, and good service—and at the same time resist any unreasonable demand that may be made on any one society.

The Workshop conference was a very important one, inasmuch that, besides having a paper on "Income Tax" (Mr. May's), which was read by Mr. Major, a very decided step was taken to arm this district for the fight that will come between our movement and our opponents.

The executive were given power to form a joint committee of themselves and men and women in the district to carry on a campaign against those who are out to destroy co-operation.

The committee met on 9th December. It was decided to hold a meeting in all parts of the district. Societies are asked to subscribe to a fund to carry on this work. Mr. and Mrs. J. Penny were appointed to do the press work. The Women's Guild in the district are asked to take part in the work; so far as their own meetings are concerned, they will take up this question.

So far as the work of the societies in the district is concerned it has been a very difficult task, owing to the abnormal conditions due to the war. In spite of this we are able to report increase in sales; also increase in membership. It is up to us to see that, when normal times return, those who have come into the movement in times of stress shall be able to say we have found a friend indeed.

During the year the Scunthorpe Society has come into this district; to them we give a hearty welcome.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	0	0	By Executive Meetings	8	15	8
„ Cash from North-Western Sectional Board.....	26	12	0	„ Conferences and other Meetings.	11	18	2
				„ Scrutineers	0	9	4
				„ Hours and Wages Board	1	1	0
				„ Delegations, Manchester.....	1	8	4
				„ Postages and Stationery	0	19	6
				„ Secretary's Honorarium	2	0	0
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	6	0	0
	£32	12	0		£32	12	0

LOCAL FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916..	6	13	8	By Wages and Hours Board	40	0	0
„ Subscriptions by Women's Guild ..	0	12	6	„ Congress Expenses.....	3	11	0
„ Levy.....	38	1	1	„ Delegations	1	3	8
„ Income Tax Propaganda Levy ..	16	13	0	„ Propaganda	1	0	0
Audited—JOHN E. FORSTER.				„ Postage and Carriage.....	1	1	9
				„ Cash in hand, 31st Dec., 1916	15	3	10
	£62	0	3				
					£62	0	3

J. DIMBERLINE, Secretary.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES' ASSOCIATION.

Officers and Committee.

Mr. Jas. S. Armitage, J.P. (president), Huddersfield.	Mr. H. Bland, Bradford.
„ W. A. Lambert (hon. treasurer), Accrington.	„ J. W. Tiffany, Failsworth.
„ E. Couldwell (hon. secretary), Brightside and Carbrook.	„ J. F. Ashworth, Eccles.
„ T. Marsden, Leeds.	„ J. Brinton, Liverpool.
	„ J. C. Hill, Bury.
	„ J. W. Barbook, Oldham.
	„ W. Kay, Bolton.
Representative from Sectional Board : Mr. B. Woolfenden, Rochdale.	
Hon. Auditor : Mr. S. Berry, Public Auditor, Oldham.	

It is a pleasurable duty which we have to perform in presenting the report of the work of the association for the past year. Some time ago an appeal was made for increased subscriptions. The executive appreciate the response to their appeal by the societies that have increased their subscriptions, but still there are a number of societies which have failed to respond. A perusal of the financial account will show that the expenditure for the year has been more than the receipts. We ask the members to consider this matter carefully when deciding to pay their subscriptions,

The twenty-ninth annual conference was held at Manchester on Saturday, 25th March, 1916, under the auspices of the Manchester and Salford Equitable Co-operative Society Limited Educational Committee. The attendance of delegates was very good. Mr. T. Anderson (president of the association) presided. Councillor R. J. Davies (chairman, Educational Committee) gave the delegates a cordial welcome to Manchester.

Mr. T. Anderson (retiring president) gave an address, in which he reviewed the efforts to substitute the co-operative principle for the vicious and demoralising influence of competitive commercialism. He urged a greater loyalty to the Co-operative Wholesale Society and societies generally, and the complete nationalisation of railways, canals, land, mines, and shipping, without which we should always be at the mercy of capitalism in its worst form. He also advocated the consolidation of the forces of democracy in every country. Universal brotherhood must be our aim.

The report and balance sheet, along with the auditor's report, was passed unanimously. The retiring officials were warmly thanked for their services on behalf of the association.

The officers elected for the year were as follows :—President, Mr. Jas. S. Armitage ; secretary, Mr. E. Couldwell ; treasurer, Mr. W. A. Lambert ; whilst the following societies were elected to appoint representatives to the executive for two years, viz. :—Failsworth, City of Bradford, Oldham Equitable, and Leeds. The representative of Brightside and Carbrook having been elected secretary, the Bury Society was elected to serve on the association for the unexpired term of one year. Mr. S. Berry (public auditor of Oldham) was appointed honorary auditor. The executive were empowered to purchase suitable mementos to mark the esteem and appreciation of the retiring president (Mr. Anderson) and the secretary (Mr. Lees), to the value of £3s. 3s. each. Mr. Anderson was presented with a selection of books, and Mr. Lees with a bureau. Both of these gentlemen are entitled to our best wishes on their retirement.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM AND TO OTHER ASSOCIATIONS.

The North-Western Sectional Board have been represented on the executive by Mr. B. Woolfenden. Owing to both bodies holding their meetings on the same day, Mr. Woolfenden has not been able to attend our meetings regularly. Mr. Jas. S. Armitage represented this association at the annual Congress at Lancaster. Messrs. J. F. Ashworth and E. Couldwell are our representatives on the Central Committee on Education. Representatives to the following district associations :—Bolton, Mr. W. Kay ; Huddersfield, Mr. James S. Armitage ; Manchester, Mr. J. F. Ashworth ; Oldham, Mr. J. W. Barbrook ; Rochdale, Mr. James C. Hill ; Choral Association, Mr. W. A. Lambert ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Workers' Educational Association, Messrs. Joseph Brinton and T. Marsden respectively. The representatives to the Workers' Educational Association regret not having been able to keep more in touch with the Workers' Educational Association work owing to the meetings clashing.

The one-hundred-and-twentieth quarterly conference was held at Burslem on Saturday, 24th June, under the auspices of the Burslem and District Industrial Co-operative Society Limited Educational Committee, there being a poor attendance of delegates. This was probably due to the great distance which many of the delegates would have had to travel.

Mr. F. Rowley (Educational Committee chairman) presided.

Mr. S. Hunt (president of society) gave the delegates a hearty welcome to Burslem.

Mr. Theodore Armstrong then read his paper entitled "Co-operative Educational Propaganda and the Press." The reader urged committees to use the press for the double purpose of increasing trade and securing greater recognition in the papers. "The pen is mightier than the sword." Co-operators have believed this, but mightier than the pen they have

esteemed the tongue. Mr. Armstrong pleaded for the pen. An interesting discussion followed.

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION FOR BROOCHES AND MEDALS IN THE
SUBJECT OF "CO-OPERATION."

The association again offered prizes in the form of brooches and medals to the successful students (whose societies are members of the association) in the re-examination. Sixteen societies members of the association sent in papers to the Co-operative Union for re-examination. The Bolton Society students were successful in winning all the prizes:—Gladys M. Clark, 112 marks, first, gold brooch; Percy Slack, 108 marks, first, gold medal; Bessie Hamer, 109 marks, second, gold brooch; Thomas Parkinson, 105 marks, second, gold medal. We congratulate the Bolton Educational Committee and the students upon their success.

The one-hundred-and-twenty-first quarterly conference was held at Burnley on Saturday, 23rd September, under the auspices of the Burnley Equitable Co-operative Society Limited Educational Committee. At the invitation of the Burnley Committee, Mr. James S. Armitage presided. The Rev. E. P. Thorpe (chairman of the Educational Committee) gave the delegates a hearty welcome to Burnley. Mr. Thomas Booth (secretary to the Educational Committee) read his paper entitled "Co-operation: Its Triumphs, Failures, and Possibilities." He reminded his hearers that true education is only a means to an end. The end in view is the betterment of the conditions of life by which the worker is surrounded, and the purifying of our social system, so that the meanest who earns his living may be enabled to enjoy God's glorious sunshine and nature's bounteous gifts on equal terms with the highest in the land.

A special conference for teachers was held at Holyoake House on Saturday, 7th October, under the auspices of the association. The executive had arranged this conference to stimulate interest in children's classes. There was a very good attendance of teachers and representatives from educational committees. Mr. James S. Armitage (president of the association) presided. Mr. F. Hall, M.A. (adviser of studies to the Co-operative Union) gave an address on the subject of "Class Work," which was of great importance to teachers and administrators on the educational side of the movement, because it goes to the root of all their work. Their object as teachers should be the development of co-operative character, and to achieve this they must foster a spirit of good fellowship amongst the students as well as give instruction. Mr. Hall advised educational committees, when selecting teachers, to put personality before anything else, because it was not always the case that the person who knew the most was the best teacher. A good discussion followed, opened by the chairman, and followed by 22 teachers and delegates.

Arising out of the teachers' conference, a suggestion was made by the Hyde Co-operative Society's Educational Committee to the executive for a

conference to stimulate children's classes in their district. The executive, acting on this suggestion, sent out invitations to societies within easy reach of Hyde, and appointed three members of the executive—Messrs. Armitage (president), Ashworth, and Tiffany—to attend. The Stalybridge Co-operative Society's Committee very kindly entertained the conference. Mr. James S. Armitage gave an address on "The Importance of Children's Classes," which was very well received.

The one-hundred-and-twenty-second quarterly conference was held at Oldham on Saturday, 2nd December, under the auspices of the Oldham Equitable Co-operative Society Limited Educational Committee. By invitation from the Educational Committee, Mr. James S. Armitage presided. Mr. Sankey (chairman of the Educational Committee) gave the delegates a hearty welcome to John Smith's town—Oldham. The Oldham Equitable Co-operative Society Limited Educational Committee made a request (which was granted by the executive) that Mr. Armstrong be invited to give his paper which he read at Burslem on the subject "Co-operative Educational Propaganda and the Press." Mr. Armstrong very kindly accepted the invitation, and dealt with the attitude of the press towards the co-operative movement, and urged that co-operators should have a press of their own. Whilst this was coming he advised societies to advertise their meetings in the press, with the object of obtaining reports of meetings held in the papers, one society being cited as having obtained space in the local papers for pithy articles had proved very effective,

There is no doubt that strenuous times are ahead of the co-operative movement, which, if successfully met, will bring greater success in the future. The educational committees should in every possible way bring before their members the principles of the movement, so that the members of our societies may see the wisdom of applying the principles of co-operation to our national life, and by this means give better effect to the co-operative motto: "Each for All, and All for Each."

On behalf of the Executive,

Yours faithfully,

E. COULDWELL, *Hon. Secretary.*

(5) SCOTTISH SECTION.

At the first meeting of the Scottish Sectional Board, held in the Ladies' College, Bridge of Allan, on 1st July, 1916, the following, among other appointments, were made for the Congress year :—

Chairman : Mr. James Allan.

Treasurer : Mr. John Patterson.

Executive Committee..... Messrs. J. Allan, J. Deans (secretary), A. Purdie, J. Lochhead, P. Loney, J. Lucas, J. M. Wilkie, and G. Wilson, with power to appoint sub-committees.

Representatives to the United Board... Messrs. G. Bisset and G. Wilson.

Representative to the Office Committee Mr. G. Bisset.

Representative to Central Education Committee Mr. J. Lucas.

Representative to quarterly meetings of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited..... Mr. A. Purdie.

Representatives to the Joint Board of Arbitration, consisting of Representatives from the Scottish Sectional Board and the Parliamentary Committee of the Scottish Trades Union Congress :

Messrs. J. Allan, J. Deans, G. Bisset, and J. Lochhead.

During the Congress year the Sectional Board has held 10 meetings, the attendance of members being as follows :—

	Absent.	Present.
James Allan	0	10
George Bisset.....	0	10
James Deans	0	10
James Lochhead	0	10
P. Loney	0	10
James Lucas	0	10
John Patterson	1	9
Andrew Purdie	0	10
James M. Wilkie	0	10
George Wilson	0	10

In addition to the meetings held by the Sectional Board the Executive Committee has held numerous meetings, at each of which a summary of the correspondence received has been submitted and dealt with. Early in the Congress year the Executive Committee appointed a Sub-education Committee, which has held frequent meetings during the year.

For the third year the annual report of the section has been submitted under the shadow of the grim and terrible struggle which is bringing untold devastation and misery to almost every nation in Europe. It is our sincere desire that before the date of the next national conference the conflict of arms will have ceased and that a brighter time will have dawned upon the nations.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

This conference was held in the Town Hall, Clydebank, on Saturday, 29th April, 1916. Mr. James Allan (chairman of the Sectional Board) occupied the chair, and there were fully 400 delegates present. Provost Taylor (Clydebank) was present at the opening of the proceedings, and cordially welcomed the delegates.

The principal items of discussion were the reports and balance sheets of the Scottish Section, the Conference Associations, and the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild, which were unanimously passed; and the reading and discussion of a paper on "Co-operative Banking," by Mr. Allan McNeil (lecturer to the Edinburgh University). In his paper, Mr. McNeil advocated the organisation of a National Co-operative Bank, based upon co-operative principles, and of democratic control, giving cogent reasons why such should be organised. A resolution, protesting against the Excess Profits Duty and against any further encroachment being made upon the earnings of the societies, was also passed and forwarded to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Immediately after the conference the section issued a circular to Conference Associations requesting them to have Mr. McNeil's paper, or another paper on "Co-operative Banking," read at one of their quarterly meetings. Several of the Conference Associations complied with this request, but no definite issue has resulted.

FRATERNAL GATHERING.

On the evening preceding the conference a fraternal gathering of delegates and others was held in Glasgow, and a very pleasant and profitable evening was spent.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SECTIONAL BOARD AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATIONS.

This annual meeting was held in the Scottish Section Offices on Saturday, 17th June, 1916. Mr. James Allan (chairman of the Sectional Board) occupied the chair. There were representatives present from eight of the ten District Conference Associations, and also the members of the Scottish National Pro-

paganda Committee, and the members of the committee appointed at the annual meeting in June, 1915, to inquire into and report on the question of the acquiring of coal mines for the co-operative movement.

The report and balance sheet of the National Propaganda Committee were submitted and unanimously adopted. It was agreed to continue the committee for another year, with additional representatives, namely, one representative from each of the Conference Associations not represented on the committee at present, and two representatives from the directorate of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. The directors of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society intimated that, under the circumstances, they thought it would not be advisable for them to be represented on this committee, and this was agreed to. It was also agreed that a further appeal be issued for funds, and that the campaign be continued during the ensuing autumn and winter.

The report of the Coal Inquiry Committee was submitted to the effect that the directors of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society had submitted to the societies a full report of their inquiry into the question, which had been accepted by the delegates at the general meeting held in December, 1916. The committee were thanked for their report and dissolved.

Mr. James Deans read a short paper on the agitation to assess the dividends of co-operative societies with Income Tax, in which he outlined the progress of the agitation for the past thirty years, the acute stage it had recently assumed, especially its political aspect, and urged that co-operators should combat this political action by securing the direct representation of co-operation in Parliament, the thorough organisation of the co-operative vote as a weapon, and not the fusion, but the friendly co-operation of the progressive forces. It was remitted to the Sectional Board to convene a special conference on an early date to consider the whole question and decide upon a policy.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

The second Summer School was held in the Ladies' College, Bridge of Allan, from 1st to 15th July, 1916, inclusive. The college proved admirably adapted in every way for the requirements of the school. There was an average attendance of thirty students each week, a very great improvement on the attendance of the previous year. The lectures were much appreciated by the students, and the social functions were also greatly enjoyed. Altogether the school proved eminently successful. The thanks of the section are due to the boards of management of the Bannockburn and Dunfermline societies for their kindness in inviting the students to visit their respective places of business, and for their hospitality on each occasion, which was much appreciated by the students. The section were looking forward to even a greater success in July of the present year, but regret that the increased railway fares and the restrictions in railway service have made it necessary to abandon the school for the present year.

THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE DIVIDENDS WITH INCOME TAX.

During the latter end of the summer and the early autumn the agitation by private trading organisations in favour of assessing the dividends of co-operative societies with Income Tax became extremely acute. Columns of the Press were devoted to correspondence—leading articles, and reports of meetings of Chambers of Commerce and trading companies advocating the assessing of the tax. Strong pressure was also brought to bear upon members of Parliament and Government officials in favour of the tax, and an effort was made to include the tax in the Finance Bill when it was before the House in June of last year; but was not pressed to a vote on a promise from the Government that at the end of the war the whole question would be referred to a special committee to inquire into and report.

During this agitation co-operators were not idle. The correspondence of the Press was convincingly replied to, leaflets dealing with the question were widely circulated, many mass meetings were held protesting against the proposed tax, and a special sectional conference was held in Glasgow on Saturday, 28th October, 1916, at which there was an attendance of 468 delegates—the largest and most widely representative conference ever held in Scotland. Mr. H. J. May (secretary to the Joint Co-operative Parliamentary Committee) read his paper on “The Income Tax Question,” and the following resolution, prepared by the Parliamentary Committee, was submitted and, with the following addenda, unanimously passed:—

That this conference of delegates, representing 492,000 co-operators in Scotland, enters its emphatic protest against the persistent misrepresentations which form the chief part of the organised agitation of private traders' associations of the country against the co-operative movement, especially in relation to the question of assessment of Income Tax. It desires to call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the artificial character of the resolutions and memorials which are constantly being submitted to it by these associations and their indirect representatives in Parliament; and declares its conviction that this agitation is dictated either by ignorance of the facts and the law, or by a hatred of working-class collectivism. Further, that while raising no objection to the inclusion of co-operative societies in the reference to a representative Committee of Inquiry into the general question of Income Tax, which the Government propose to set up after the war, this conference expresses the opinion that, in view of the authoritative basis on which the position of co-operative societies has been placed by successive administrations, both Liberal and Conservative, the Government should more definitely repudiate the misrepresentations of the traders' associations and assert the undoubted rights of co-operators to equal treatment with all other citizens before the law.

No. 1.—And, further, that this conference of co-operators approves of societies, individually and collectively, allying themselves with other democratic forces for the protection and preservation of their rights, and that it be remitted to a special committee, composed of representatives of the section, district conference associations, and federated societies, to inquire and report upon a satisfactory working basis with the trade unions and Labour Party.

No. 2.—While agreeing to the foregoing resolution, this conference, recognising that the majority of the representatives in Parliament and other public bodies cannot represent the co-operative movement in politics or economics, recommends that all co-operative societies begin to organise their members politically for the purpose of using the co-operative vote in support of democratic candidates for Parliament and other public bodies, who will stand for the principle of democratic ownership of the necessities of life and the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Immediately afterwards a circular was issued by the section to the societies, directing their attention to the resolution and requesting them to submit Addendum No. 2 to their members at the first convenient meeting, and inform the Sectional Board of the result; also urging upon them to communicate with the members of Parliament within whose constituencies they carried on business, with the view of ascertaining their attitude towards the proposal to tax co-operative dividends, and to inform the section of the nature of the replies, so that these might be tabulated for reference. Since the date of the conference many meetings have been held to protest against the tax, and the question has been discussed by a number of the conference associations at their quarterly meetings. Up to the present quite a number of societies have submitted Addendum No. 2 to their members, and have decided in favour of the organisation of the co-operative vote and direct representation in Parliament. A number have also communicated with members of Parliament *re* their attitude towards the proposed assessing of co-operative dividends with income tax, and the replies received are very mixed: the majority are quite decidedly against the proposed taxation, while a number of replies are vague and uncertain. All the replies have been tabulated.

CLOSER CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES.

In accordance with the terms of Addendum No. 1, the Sectional Board convened a conference, consisting of the members of the section and representatives from the federated societies, the conference associations, the women's guild, and the Kilmarnock Society (this society being the author of the Addendum). The conference was held in the Section Offices, on Saturday, 30th December, and was largely attended. After discussing the terms of the Addendum, the following draft scheme for the formation of an Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from the co-operative, trades union, and labour movements in Scotland, was submitted and approved:

PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE.—CONSTITUTION AND OBJECTS.

Name.

The United Co-operative and Labour Committee.

Representation.

Scottish Section Co-operative Union	3
Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society	3
Parliamentary Committee : Scottish Trades Union Congress	3
Scottish Labour Party	3

Officials.

Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary, who shall act as an Emergency Committee.

Objects.

1. To promote a better understanding, and, where possible, more concerted action, and the carrying out of a joint programme for educational and practical purposes, without in any way interfering with the separate and distinct functions of each constituent body.

2. To organise special conferences, when necessary, with the object of influencing public opinion in support of questions affecting the social or industrial life of the people, or in defence of any or all the constituent bodies who may be attacked by their opponents on matters essential to their welfare.

3. To secure an interchange of fraternal greetings at the annual conference of the three sections, and generally to advise on points affecting any of the constituent bodies.

Proposed Method of Procedure.

1. That, in the event of the federated bodies represented at this meeting agreeing to the principle of an Advisory Committee, and the above or an amended form of constitution accepted, it be remitted to the Sectional Board to submit the constitution as an item of business at the Annual Scottish National Conference for 1917.

2. That, in the event of the constitution being adopted as submitted, or in an amended form, at the National Conference, it be remitted to the Sectional Board to enter into negotiations with the trade unions and labour bodies to ascertain their views on the proposal to form an Advisory Committee upon the lines agreed upon at the National Conference.

It was agreed that the scheme be submitted to the National Conference to be held in Falkirk on 28th April, 1917.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Very strong dissatisfaction has been expressed by co-operators in every part of Scotland, not only with the assessing of co-operative dividends with this tax, but with the method of its application to co-operative societies. Many resolutions have been passed and protests made against the payment of the tax, but, up to the present, without success.

NATIONAL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

Encouraged by the success which attended the campaign of the previous winter and summer, early in the autumn the committee issued an appeal to societies for funds to enable them to organise another campaign on similar lines. The response from the societies was again prompt and liberal, and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Co-operative Union renewed their grants of £200 each to the Propaganda Funds. The campaign began in October, and by the middle of December over thirty public meetings had been held, covering the greater part of Scotland, at which the attendance was even more satisfactory than in the previous campaign. Able and suitable addresses were given, and full advantage was taken of the meetings to educate the members of societies and the general public on the injustice and effect of the Excess Profits Duty and the proposal to assess co-operative dividends with Income Tax. With the object of making the meetings attractive, a musical programme was rendered at each meeting. Many thousands of suitable leaflets were circulated in every locality where the meetings were held. In several of the localities the Women's Guild rendered excellent service towards promoting the success of the meetings. At the date of this report the committee is engaged in organising a series of public meetings to take place in the early spring, one of which will be held in a central and populous town within each conference district, and every effort will be made to secure their success. An extensive and vigorous open-air campaign will also be organised to take place during the spring and summer months. Very successful propaganda work has also been accomplished by several of the conference associations and societies in their respective districts, and the Wholesale Society has continued its arrangements with societies in exhibiting large advertising posters in various parts of the country. There is no doubt the campaign has been eminently successful in keeping the principles and benefits of co-operation prominently before the public mind.

CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILDS.

Under the auspices of the Scottish Section a conference, consisting of representatives from co-operative societies, educational committees, and conference associations in Scotland, was held in the Co-operative Hall, Clydebank, on 24th June, 1916. Mr. James Allan (chairman of the Section) presided, and there was a large attendance of delegates. Mr. W. H. Watkins (president of the National Co-operative Men's Guild) was present and gave a very interesting address on "The Men's Guild Movement," which was followed by a lengthy discussion, on the conclusion of which the following resolution was passed:—"That a Scottish District Council be formed for the purpose of propagating and controlling Men's Guilds in Scotland.

Since the formation of the district council a considerable addition has been made to the number of men's guilds in Scotland, also to the membership of the guilds.

During the past winter the guilds have held many meetings, at which

questions of general importance to co-operation have been discussed, and it is to be hoped that the guilds will prove a valuable addition to the educational force of the movement in Scotland.

FOOD PRICES.

Under the auspices of the United Board of the Co-operative Union a special conference was held in Edinburgh on 20th January, 1917, to consider the alarming increase in the prices of foodstuffs and the probability of further advances. Mr. James Allan (chairman of the Section) presided, and there was a large attendance of delegates. Mr. Wm. Gallacher (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society director) delivered an able and instructive address on the cause and the extent of the increases in the prices of foodstuffs, and pointed out how it was within the power of the co-operative movement to exercise a considerable control over the prices.

Mr. A. Purdie (Scottish Section) moved the first part of the resolution, prepared by the United Board, which, after an animated discussion, was passed unanimously.

Mr. George Wilson (Scottish Section) moved the second portion of the resolution, which, after a brief discussion, was also passed unanimously.

The conference was one of four organised by the United Board of the Co-operative Union, held on the same date, the other three conferences being held in Bristol, Leeds, and London.

AFFILIATION OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES WITH THE LABOUR PARTY.

Recently many applications have been made by societies to the section for advice as to whether by their rules they are legally entitled to become affiliated with the Labour Party and make contributions to their funds. The opinion of the consulting solicitor to the Scottish Section was that by their rules co-operative societies were not entitled to do so, and he was very doubtful if the Registrar would register rules entitling societies to become affiliated with the Labour Party. At the request of the section, however, he prepared a memorial covering the whole question for submission to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for his decision. The memorial was duly forwarded to the Registrar, but at the date of this report his decision has not yet been received.

AMALGAMATION OF SOCIETIES.

Recently the question of amalgamation of societies has been much to the fore in several districts of Scotland. In two instances the efforts have been successful, the St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Association and Juniper Green and the Stenhousemuir Equitable and Baking Societies having been amalgamated; while in another district it is to be regretted that the scheme did not receive the necessary support from the members of one of the societies. It is to be hoped that the results of the efforts in some other districts will be successful.

OVERLAPPING.

A dispute between the Cowlairs and St. George's societies (Glasgow) has recently occupied the attention of the Sectional Board and the committees of the societies signatory to the Boundary Lines Agreement. The dispute arose through Cowlairs Society deciding to open branches of its business within the boundary lines of St. George's Society in Possilpark. Several meetings of the Sectional Board and the committees of the societies signatory to the Boundary Lines Agreement have been held with the view of arriving at a settlement, but it was ultimately agreed that the present is not a suitable time to enter upon the revising of the boundary lines or to promote a scheme for the amalgamation of the Glasgow societies. It was agreed to delay the whole question until the end of the war, and it was remitted to the Sectional Board to take action at a later and more opportune time.

CONCILIATION BOARD AND HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS.

During the Congress year a District Conciliation Board has been elected for Scotland, and Hours and Wages Boards have been elected by the district conference associations. The object of the Hours and Wages Boards is to arrange as far as practicable a scale of hours and wages for the employes of co-operative societies within their respective districts, and to endeavour to settle any disputes which may arise between societies and their employes. Failing a settlement by the Hours and Wages Board, the dispute to be submitted to the Scottish Conciliation Board; failing settlement by that Board, the National Conciliation Board; failing settlement there, the dispute to be submitted for final settlement to the Board of Trade.

DEFENCE BOARD.

A Board for defensive purposes has also been appointed, consisting of one representative from each of the Hours and Wages Boards and one representative from the Sectional Board. The primary object of the Defence Board is, in the event of a society being unfairly attacked, to give its support in the defence of its interests.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.

This association continues to carry on its work in a very energetic manner, resulting in very satisfactory progress. The Annual Choir Competition was held under its auspices in the City Hall, Glasgow, on 17th March. In addition to the choir competition, there was also a competition in solo singing, and, considering the restricted railway facilities, the proceedings were in every respect very successful.

STATISTICAL STATEMENT FOR 1916.

The Sectional Board regret that on account of the delay by societies in sending in their statistical returns to the Central Office of the Union it is impossible to include them in the report to the National Conference, but the

following statement, prepared by Professor Hall, will, no doubt, be found to be both interesting and instructive

A SURVEY OF SOME STATISTICS OF SCOTTISH CO-OPERATION.

A survey of the statistics of retail distributive co-operation in Scotland shows that remarkable progress has been made during the last thirty years.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership, as revealed by the table given below, has grown rapidly, being in 1915 nearly seven times as great as in 1881, though the number of societies has been reduced in recent years as a result of amalgamations, &c. In 1881, the membership in Scotland was 13·02 per cent of the total membership of the United Kingdom; in 1891 it was 15·1 per cent; in 1901 it was 16·7 per cent; in 1911 it was 15·4 per cent; and in 1915 it was 14·7 per cent. The increasing percentage of the Scottish figures in the earlier years is partly due to there being more room for growth in Scotland during these years; and the increasing percentage in recent years is partly due to the field in Scotland being better filled, and to the more rapid growth of the movement in parts of England, *e.g.*, the Southern Section, where the movement had previously been weak, and there was considerable room for development. That progress has been continuous in Scotland is shown, not only by the growth of total membership, but also by the fact that co-operative membership in Scotland in 1901 was equal to 6·74 per cent of the population, and in 1911 was equal to 8·54 per cent. The membership has grown faster than the population; and it is safe to say that when allowance has been made for the families of co-operators, one-third to one-half of the population of Scotland is associated with the co-operative movement.

The movement is strongest in Clackmannan, where the membership in 1911 was equal to 26·5 per cent of the population. Selkirk, Stirling, Dumbarton, and Edinburgh come next in the order named, with 13·8 per cent, 13·1 per cent, 12·91 per cent, and 12·89 per cent respectively. In some counties there are no members at all

CAPITAL.

The figures of capital of the retail distributive societies in Scotland reveal a continuous and satisfactory increase, the share capital in 1915 being seventeen times what it was in 1881. The average per member also shows a gratifying increase, being £13. 16s. in 1915 (the average for the United Kingdom being £13. 4s.), against £5. 11s. 6d. in 1881 (the average for the United Kingdom in this year being £9. 16s. 6d.). The loan capital also shows a substantial increase.

The reserve and insurance funds are growing very satisfactorily, not only in total, but also per member and in relation to share capital. They were 15s. per member in 1901, £1. 11s. in 1911, and £1. 16s. in 1915; 7·88 per cent of share capital in 1901, 12·8 per cent in 1911, and 12·98 per cent in

1915. The figures of reserves for the whole of the societies in the United Kingdom in 1915 were 19s. 2d. per member and 7·36 per cent of share capital, thus showing the Scottish Section to stand very well in comparison with, other sections.

TRADE.

Retail co-operative trade in Scotland shows a considerable growth as might be expected, having grown from £2,250,000 in 1881 to approximately £20,000,000 in 1915. This growth is healthy, for the sales per member have simultaneously increased from £31. 12s. in 1881 to £37. 10s. in 1911; and £41. 14s. in 1915 as against £28. 6s. 6d. for the United Kingdom as a whole in 1911; and £31. 8s. in 1915. Scottish societies did 14·6 per cent of the whole of the retail distributive co-operative trade of the United Kingdom in 1881, 18·0 per cent in 1891, 21·1 per cent in 1901, 20·4 per cent in 1911, and 19·5 per cent in 1915.

The sales per member for the various counties of Scotland in 1911 were highest in Peebles (£54. 6s.), and next highest in Stirling (£47. 12s.), falling to £9. 14s. in Shetland, and to zero in some counties where there are no members. The trade per society has naturally grown as the membership of societies has increased. It was £11,257 per society in 1881, and £77,048 in 1915.

PROFITS.

Profits have, of course, grown in the aggregate with the growth of membership and trade, and they have also increased per member (from £6 3s. in 1901 to £6. 12s. in 1911, and £7. 1s. in 1915). After paying share and loan interest, the rate of profit in 1915 was approximately 47 per cent of share capital (as compared with 50 per cent in 1911, and 60 per cent in 1901); and 15·6 per cent or 3s. 1½d. in the £1 of sales (as compared with 16·2 per cent or 3s. 3d. in the £1 in 1911; and 15·5 per cent or 3s. 1¼d. in 1901).

SCOTLAND.

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES, 1881-1915.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL AND RESERVES.

Year.	No. of Societies.	Number of Members.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Reserve and Insurance Funds.	Share Capital per Member.	Loan Capital per Member.	Reserve and Insurance per Member.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
1881	200	71,238	397,142	142,635	not available	5·57	2·00	—
1891	281	157,889	1,251,402	430,722	not available	7·93	2·73	—
1901	290	300,043	2,901,308	1,356,593	228,487	9·67	4·52	0·76
1911	269	406,520	4,964,281	1,573,008	635,261	12·21	3·87	1·56
1915	259	478,420	6,608,367	1,696,420	857,463	13·81	3·55	1·79

SALES AND PROFITS.

Year.	Number of Societies.	Number of Members.	Sales.			Profit.			* Net Profit.		
			Total.	Per Member.	Per Society.	Total.	Per Member.	Per Society.	Total.	In Relation to Share Capital.	In Relation to Sales.
1881	200	71,238	£ 2,251,329	£ 31·6	£ 11,257	not avail'ble	—	—	£ —	% —	% —
1891	281	157,889	5,508,962	34·9	19,605	not avail'ble	—	—	—	—	—
1901	290	300,043	11,126,869	37·1	38,369	1,844,884	6·15	6,361·67	1,728,832	60	15·5
1911	269	406,520	15,241,357	37·5	56,659	2,676,107	6·58	9,948·85	2,477,536	50	16·2
1915	259	478,420	19,955,472	41·7	77,048	3,378,112	7·06	13,042·90	3,113,777	47	15·6

* This net profit is arrived at by deducting interest at 4 per cent on the share capital. It represents, approximately, the amount available for distribution as dividend on purchases, educational grant, &c.

JAMES ALLAN, Chairman.

JAMES DEANS, Secretary.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION LTD.

We are pleased to report a good year's work. During that period we have been able to visit all the veterans on our list living farthest away from Glasgow. Those visited were pleased to meet our deputations, and took the opportunity to thank the Veterans' Association for the assistance rendered in their time of need.

Eight cases have been added to our list—four ladies and four gentlemen. One of the former, having received the old-age pension, has been allowed to drop; while six have died, most of them having long since passed “the three score years and ten.” We are pleased to note that the number of life members is increasing.

During the last twelve years we have distributed £2,472 amongst the veterans in Scotland, one of whom wrote saying that he “hoped a more needful case was not being neglected to give to him,” while another felt “honoured by our gift and the placing of his name upon our veterans' list.

“Need and Service” is our motto, while we seldom send anyone “empty away.”

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEET

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
From Societies.....	243	18 0	Paid to Veterans	340	12 0
„ Guilds	25	14 8½	Balance Sheets, Postages, &c.	17	5 1½
„ Individuals	45	6 6			
„ Collections at Meetings	29	15 0½		£357	17 1½
„ Life Members	3	0 6	Banked and lodged in U.C.B.S.	392	19 10
„ Conference Associations	8	2 0	Cash Balance, December, 1916	19	9 6
„ Interest and Sundries	8	12 2			
Total income	£364	8 11			
„ Bank and U.C.B.S.	389	15 0			
„ Shares	1	0 0			
Cash Balance, December, 1915	15	2 6½			
	£770	6 5½		£770	6 5½

Number of shareholding societies, 55 number of veterans, 33; number of life members, 25; fund available for distribution, £264.

WM. PETTIGREW, Secretary.

54, Alexandra Parade,
Glasgow.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—AYRSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Judge Flinn (president), Ardrossan.

Bailie Dunlop (treasurer), Galston.

Mr. Wm. Anderson (secretary), Kilbirnie.

,, William M. Scott (statistical secretary), Kilbirnie.

Mr. James Hopes (auditor), Dalmellington.

,, Hugh Stewart (auditor), Newmilns.

,, Thomas Imrie, Stevenston.

,, Samuel Clark, Kilmarnock.

,, John Cosgrove, Hurlford.

,, Robert Howat, New Cumnock.

Another year has passed since we had the pleasure of submitting to you the record of our work. How glad all would have felt had we now been able to say that the dark clouds of war were past and gone, and that we were now getting back into the sunshine of clearer and brighter days. Such has not been the case, as now for the third time in succession we are submitting our annual report with the horrors and ravages of war still unabated.

The management of our various societies have experienced great difficulty during the year in meeting the needs of their members. The cost of living has increased beyond all calculations, and the standard of living for many has had to be lowered. Some commodities could not be procured at all, and others in such small quantities that curtailment in use had to take place.

Shortage of labour has also been a great cause of trouble, and service had to be curtailed in many ways; but yet, in spite of all these drawbacks, the movement has gone forward very rapidly, and large increases are shown in nearly every society. Much of this increase may be traced to the higher prices of goods, but all of it is not traceable to this source, as it is easily seen that a great and most welcome addition to our membership has taken place. This can be best seen by comparing the usual extracts from the statistical statement:—

	Members.	Sales.	Profits.	Capital.
1916	38,909 ..	£1,783,512 ..	£249,220 ..	£801,561
1915	34,561 ..	1,437,341 ..	212,410 ..	738,316
Increase for Year ..	4,348	£346,171	£36,810	£63,245

This success has been the cause of much jealousy on the part of our opponents, and they have set out to check our growth by placing on us burdens that are far from being easy to carry. The Excess Profits Duty is touching us in many cases, and should not have been allowed to be put on to societies without some opposition. At any rate, it will get heavier the longer we have to bear it, and will undoubtedly cripple developments for some time to come.

The proposal to tax our dividends has raised a good deal of agitation, and if members of boards of management would only seek to enlighten the

members of their society, undoubtedly they could make it impossible for members of Parliament to vote against the impartial treatment of co-operative societies. We only want fair play and no favour, and if this were only given, as loyal citizens we would be willing to pay our taxes.

MEETINGS.

During the year we have held the four statutory meetings, and also two special meetings. The unabated interest of those attending shows that our members are as keen as ever to learn, and wish to have an enlightened idea of all that affects the welfare of the movement. The papers submitted for discussion were carefully followed, and the free discussion cannot but have an educational value that one cannot estimate. The attendance during the year at all these meetings has been on the restricted scale as agreed on, and has been well maintained.

The first or annual meeting was held at Dreghorn on the 25th March, under the auspices of Dreghorn Society, and there was an attendance of 113 delegates. Mr. William M. Scott (statistical secretary) submitted a very full paper dealing with the "Statistical Statement and its Lessons." He showed how important it was that directors of societies should feel their responsibility and equip themselves to meet the changing conditions. He tendered to all sound practical advice as to the future, and what action ought to be taken in connection with the Excess Profits clause in the Finance Act. A good discussion followed, and Mr. Scott replied to all the questions raised, and received a hearty vote of thanks. Kilwiining Branch of the Women's Guild was admitted to membership of the association.

The second meeting was held at Mauchline on 24th June, under the auspices of the Mauchline Society, and was attended by 112 delegates. Mr. George Seymour (treasurer of the Homes Association) read his paper on "The Co-operative Convalescent Homes: A Retrospect and a Forecast." He traced the work of the homes from their inception. He showed the need that existed for the new home at Airdmhor, and appealed strongly for the Ayrshire societies to do their part in raising the £5,000 needed to complete same and make it comfortable. A good many took part in the further consideration of the matter. Mr. Seymour was warmly thanked for his paper, and replied to points raised. Baillie Dunlop returned his thanks for the privilege he had of being their representative at Congress, and also gave his impressions of same.

The third meeting was held at Stevenston on 23rd September, under the auspices of Stevenston Society, and was attended by 110 delegates. Mr. James Deans (Scottish Section) read his paper on "Some Points on the Income Tax Question." He showed the difference between dividend and income, and maintained that co-operative societies' dividend was not "profits" but "savings." A very spirited discussion followed, a large number taking part. Mr. Deans replied fully to the points raised, and received the thanks of the meeting for his paper. Prestwick and Kilmaurs branches of the Women's Guild were admitted members of the association. The executive were also instructed to approach all the M.P.'s embraced in the conference area, and

ascertain their views in connection with the proposal to tax co-operative societies' dividends.

The fourth meeting took place at Newmilns on 23rd December, under the auspices of Newmilns Society, and was attended by 114 delegates. Professor Hall's paper on "The Economic Results of the War, and their Effect on the Co-operative Movement," was read by Mr. James Deans (Scottish Section). In the discussion that followed many items of interest were brought forward, and Mr. Deans, in his reply, went very carefully into them. He was awarded the thanks of the meeting for reading the paper. £1 was granted to Scottish Co-operative Musical Association, and £1. 1s. to the Scottish Council for Women's Trades.

The secretary submitted a full report as to the views of the M.P.'s on proposed tax on dividend. Seven had been written to and four had replied. None of these thought it was likely that any change would be made in the existing mode of taxation, and maintained that to tax dividend at its source and allow members to reclaim would be a loss to the Treasury in the long run, and no Government would carry such a measure.

Two special meetings were held at Kilmarnock with the view of setting up a Wages Board for the district. This was the outcome of a special national conference that agreed that each district should form a Board. This has been now carried out and been in existence for the greater part of the year, and we believe that if these abnormal times were passed it would prove to be of great convenience in bringing about a greater uniformity in the conditions of employment.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROPAGANDA WORK.

In spite of all the difficulties that are at present in the way of educational committees, we are pleased to know that activity is very evident in many of our districts, and much of the praise for this is due to the Women's Guild and its good work. While the guilds are active and enthusiastic in the welfare of their own society, we find that they are devoting a fair proportion of their energy to the providing of comforts for our soldiers and sailors.

Through the instrumentality of the National Propaganda Committee a number of open-air and indoor meetings have been held. Ayr, Prestwick, Kirkcubright, Sanquhar, Kilbirnie, Coylton, and Irvine have all been visited, and we are sure that the good seed sown will bring forth a plentiful harvest.

Your executive has had a year of work, much of which has brought the satisfaction that the same has been appreciated by those to whom it was rendered, and we would again place our services at the disposal of any who may wish them.

We would wish again to return our thanks to the societies that have entertained the conference meetings during the year. They have on all occasions extended a hospitality that was admired and very much appreciated by all those attending our meetings. We would also seek to convey to the Educational Committee of the Kilmarnock Society our warmest thanks for the privilege we enjoy in having the use of their room for our executive meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at 31st December, 1915..	4	9 3½	By Quarterly Meeting at—		
„ Subscriptions from Societies	157	11 2	Dreghorn	10	2 6
„ Advertisements	2	10 0	Mauchline	11	11 6
„ Interest	0	18 7	Stevenston	12	2 8
			Newmilns	12	11 11
			„ Committee Meetings	13	7 4
			„ Special Committee Meetings	1	17 4
			„ Special Conferences	10	19 6
			„ Attending other Conferences	9	7 5
			„ Propaganda Meetings	4	5 11
			„ Convalescent Homes Association	1	10 0
			„ Musical Association	1	0 0
			„ Scottish Council for Women's		
			Trades	1	1 0
			„ Co-operative Union	0	10 0
			„ Printing Account	12	9 0
			„ President's Salary	1	10 0
			„ Secretary's	6	0 0
			„ Statistical Secretary's Salary	1	10 0
			„ Treasurer's Salary	3	0 0
			„ Delegate to Congress	8	5 0
			„ Auditing Books	0	15 1
			„ Janitor	0	5 0
			„ Secretary's Postage	3	15 1
			„ Statistical Secretary's Postage	0	2 10
			„ Treasurer's Postage	0	9 3½
			„ Bank Charges	0	11 9
			„ Repaid Galston Society	24	0 0
			Balance at 30th December, 1916—		
			In Bank	5	16 5
			On hand	6	12 7
				£165	9 0½

Audited—
HUGH STEWART
JAMES HOPES.

£165 9 0½

£165 9 0½

WILLIAM ANDERSON, Secretary.

No. 2.—BORDER COUNTIES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. George Fisher (president), Innerleithen.	Mr. Thomas Storie (auditor), Galashiels
„ T. J. Bolster (treasurer), Selkirk.	„ Richard Laidlaw, Hawick.
„ Mr. Thos. N. Ralston, (secretary), Galashiels.	„ William Christison, Walkerburn.
	„ Thomas Millar, Peebles

We have pleasure in again submitting the annual report of the Executive together with the balance sheet and statistical returns for another year.

The war of European nations is still oppressing us, and is being pursued more relentlessly and more ruthlessly than ever. The country has been denuded of her manhood, whilst the treasures and resources of the nation are being tested to their utmost limits. We can confidently state that the movement has stood the strain, and is a more stable institution than ever. Our success is the cause of the jealousy of our opponents, who are doing everything in their power to have burdens put upon the movement which are neither just nor reasonable.

The making of the excess profits tax applicable to co-operative societies should never have been consented to without the voice of the members being taken.

The proposed taxation of dividends is again with us. It lies with the members to take every opportunity of showing the injustice of it, and so make it impossible for politicians to lay their hands on our savings.

The educational societies and women's guilds continue to do their good work, irrespective of the many difficulties which have come in their way.

SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.

The annual meeting was held, under the auspices of the Peebles Society, on the 18th March, 1916. Mr. George Fisher, president, presided. Mr. Thos. McGill, president of the Peebles Society, welcomed the delegates in his own quaint and humorous manner. There were 101 delegates present. Mr. Neil O'Hara, who had acted as interim secretary, was unanimously granted £3 as an honorarium for his services. Mr. O'Hara thanked the members, and desired that his honorarium should be sent as a donation to the Red Cross Society. Mr. O'Hara's generosity was duly endorsed in the minutes. Mr. Bolster was re-elected treasurer, while Messrs. Aikman and Christison were re-elected members of the Executive. Mr. Thomas N. Ralston was unanimously elected secretary, and Mr. George Fisher was nominated as president. Mr. Neil O'Hara was elected to represent the conference at the Lancaster Congress. The annual report and statistical returns were considered. Mr. D. Thomson (Peebles) read a paper on the "Organisation of Retail Societies." An instructive discussion took place, to which Mr. Thomson replied, and, on the motion of Mr. James Allan (Scottish Section), was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Councillor Millar (Galashiels) moved that the Executive be instructed to send out a resolution *re* excess profits tax to all societies, so that same may be repealed so far as the savings of co-operative members were concerned.

The second meeting was held at Innerleithen on the 17th June, 1916, under the auspices of the Innerleithen Society. Mr. George Fisher (president) presided, and 96 delegates were present. Mr. Caldwell (president of the Innerleithen Society) gave the delegates a hearty welcome. Mr. George Fisher was re-elected president. Mr. R. Laidlaw was nominated as a member of the Executive. Mr. Neil O'Hara gave a very lucid and interesting report of the Congress held at Lancaster. Mr. Alexander Anderson (Innerleithen) read a paper on "Hindrances to Co-operative Development," which brought forth a keen and lively discussion. Mr. Anderson replied, and was cordially thanked on the motion of Mrs. T. A. Brown (Innerleithen).

The third meeting was held under the auspices of the Scottish Wholesale Society Limited, in the Co-operative Hall, High Street, Selkirk, on the 16th September, 1916. Mr. George Fisher (president) presided. Mr. Thomas Little welcomed the delegates on behalf of his co-directors. There were 90 delegates present. Mr. R. Laidlaw was re-elected a member of the Executive. Mr. Thomas J. Bolster was nominated for treasurer, while Mr. Christison (Walkerburn) was nominated as a member of the Executive. Mr. Gebbie (manager, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's Chemical Department) then delivered an address on the productions of his department, which was

both interesting and instructive. A discussion followed, to which Mr. Gebbie replied, and was duly thanked on the motion of Mr. James Bayne (Alloa).

The fourth meeting was held on the 16th December, 1916, at Galashiels, under the auspices of the Galashiels United Society. Owing to the absence of the president, who was laid aside by illness, Mr. Thomas J. Bolster presided. Mr. James Smith (president, Galashiels Society) gave the delegates a cordial welcome, there being 78 present. Mr. Thomas J. Bolster was duly elected treasurer. Messrs. William Christison (Walkerburn) and Thomas Millar (Peebles) were elected members of the Executive. Mr. Henry Aikman was cordially thanked for his services on his retiral from the Executive. Mr. Thomas N. Ralston was nominated as secretary. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That we, the members of the Co-operative movement, call upon the Government to at once take action to stop the enormous increases which are taking place in the prices of the necessities of life, which are making it almost impossible for people to get what is absolutely essential." The following resolution was also unanimously agreed to:—"That this meeting of representatives of the societies forming the Border Counties Co-operative Conference Association petition the Government against the proposed imposition of income tax on co-operative dividends, which are in no sense income, but the savings of the members effected by the system of co-operative trading; and, as co-operators, to resist the proposals to the utmost limit in our power." Mr. Robert Brownlee, J.P., read a very interesting and instructive paper on "The Federation of Border Societies," which was discussed with good feeling. Mr. Brownlee replied, and was cordially thanked on the motion of Bailie Dodds (Selkirk). The secretary read a letter *re* propaganda meeting for conference district. It was agreed that same should be held in Galashiels. In conclusion, we desire to return our best thanks to the societies under whose auspices we have met during the past year, and for the hospitality extended to all those who were privileged to attend our meetings.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance from last year	55	3 7	By Committee Expenses	15	1 11
" Contributions from Societies	53	8 8	" Delegates' and Travelling Expenses.....	5	0 2
" Advertisements	2	0 0	" Delegate to Congress.....	7	2 0
" Interest from Bank.....	1	10 2	" Secretary's Salary, 1915	3	0 0
			" Secretary's Salary, 1916	3	0 0
			" Donation to Earlston Relief Fund	3	0 0
			" Subscription to the National		
			Propaganda Committee.....	1	0 0
			" Subscription to the Co-operative		
			Convalescent Homes.....	1	10 0
			" Printing.....	9	10 8
			" Stamps, Stationery, and Bank		
			Commissions	2	12 7
			" Cash in the Bank	65	10 4
			" Cash in hand	0	11 9
Audited—					
THOS. STORIE.					
£117 2 5			£117 2 5		

THOS. N. RALSTON, *Secretary.*

NO. 3.—CENTRAL.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John Brown (president), Wishaw.	Mr. David R. Lockhart (auditor), Motherwell.
„ Joseph Kay (vice-president), Carluke.	„ Maxwell Bryce (statistical secretary), Hamilton.
„ Archibald Muir (treasurer), Motherwell.	„ Matthew McPhail, High Blantyre.
„ Robert M. Prentice (secretary), Coatbridge.	„ Thos. McAusland, Bellshill.
	„ Dugald Waddell, Hamilton.
	„ James Brown, Lanark.

We beg to submit our annual report and balance sheet for your consideration and approval.

National character very much depends on small causes, embracing circumstances calculated to operate on the minds of men who desire to rule wisely and well. If governors of nations are actuated by impure motives, then national character founded upon such a basis has a tendency to be loose, with the inevitable result that the morality of populaces becomes subordinate to a self-seeking and, if need be, vicious and relentless autocracy. It is because there is a lack of true national character that the war drum is still unmuffled and the clash of arms is louder than before. We deplore such a state of matters, and long for the time when assiduous endeavours will be made to build that character which will love enduring peace and render the future approach of war impossible. To set out towards the setting up of such an ideal there must be a voluntary recognition of the spirit of co-operation, which is just as essential to the progress of nations under peace conditions as it is necessary for it to imbue its component parts to uphold the right, even the onslaughts of an unscrupulous foe.

The co-operative movement has in some measure lived up to its principles throughout the present regrettable national crisis. The tide of exorbitant prices in foodstuffs has been stemmed and further exploitation of the purchaser minimised. The continuance of such an aggressive yet admirable and desirable policy will go a long way to convince those who are out with our ranks that the movement is a greater force for good than has ever been recognised. Societies in the Central conference area have had an unprecedented spell of success during 1916, and co-operation has received an impetus which will bestir those responsible for the management of societies to achieve greater successes in the future.

The work of the Central Co-operative Conference Association has been carried on in conformity with the instructions from its members and the recommendations of the Co-operative Union. Much aggressive work falls to be done, and towards that end we must concentrate our efforts so that in the stirring times that lie ahead of the movement in the district we shall be ready to play our part. Twelve ordinary committee meetings and one special committee meeting were held during the year. Four quarterly and

three special meetings of the association were held. The questions which came up for discussion comprise the following:—1. "One Hundred Years of Co-operative Ideals," by Mr. R. Murray (Barrhead). 2. "Excess Profits Duty," Mr. W. Gallacher (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society). 3. Further discussion of Mr. Murray's paper. 4. Mr. Gebbie's paper on the "Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's Sundries Department." 5. "Overlapping and Shortage of Labour," by Mr. W. B. Small. 6. Mr. McNeil's paper, "Co-operative Banking," Mr. Purdie (Scottish Section). 7. "Excess Profits and Taxation of Dividends," Mr. Benzie. The latter question was thoroughly discussed and resolutions of protest moved.

Educational and propaganda work in the Central area has been carried on successfully, but not to the same extent as when normal conditions prevailed. When the mighty struggle of the nations ceases we hope to direct a vigorous campaign against all that seeks to impede the progress of the movement.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1915	51	11	4	By Printing	11	9	8
„ Subscriptions from Societies....	122	8	3	„ Postage	4	5	8
„ Bank interest	3	2	10	„ Committee and travelling	16	1	6
				„ Conference „	29	17	10
				„ Congress expenses.....	5	18	6
				„ Propaganda „	4	3	6
				„ Special committee (Wages Board)	1	13	0
				„ „ (Milk Supply)	5	0	0
				„ Earlston Fund	1	1	0
				„ Homes Association	1	10	0
				„ Musical „	1	1	0
				„ Veterans „	1	0	0
				„ Co-operative Union	0	10	0
				„ International Alliance	1	4	0
				„ President's salary	1	0	0
				„ Secretary's „	4	0	0
				„ Statistical Secretary's salary....	2	0	0
				„ Treasurer's salary.....	2	0	0
				„ Auditor's „	0	10	0
				„ Scottish Co-operator (share)	1	2	9
				„ Cash in Bank	74	4	9
				„ Cash in hand	7	9	8
	£177	2	5		£177	2	5

DAVID R. LOCKHART,
Auditor.

ROBERT M. PRENTICE, Secretary.

NO. 4.—EAST OF SCOTLAND.

Executive Committee.

Mr. William Nimmo (president), Armadale.	Mr. William D. Gready, St. Cuthbert's.
„ George Peddie (sec.), Edinburgh.	„ William T. Laing, St. Cuthbert's.
„ George Gray (treasurer), St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh.	„ Richard Ellis, West Calder.
„ Edward Young, Leith Provident.	„ William Colville (auditor).
	„ Jas. C. Cessford (auditor).

Your committee have pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval their record of work for the past twelve months, and annual returns.

The war of nations is still oppressing us, and is being pursued more relentlessly and more ruthlessly than ever. But we can state with satisfaction that the movement has stood the strain and is a more stable institution than ever. Our very success is the cause of the jealousy of our opponents, who are endeavouring to place unjust burdens on our system of trading.

It is a matter for felicitation that all the societies within the district assigned to us are now affiliated to the conference. We hope mutual benefit will be derived from associating together, and that we shall be stronger for offensive or defensive purposes.

That our development is being well sustained, apart altogether from inflated prices, these summarised extracts from the statistical report can amply prove.

Our total sales have now reached £4,272,256. There is a record of increases in all the tables, and, as previously indicated, we have added 5,781 to membership, and the sales show an advance of £569,073.

The members' confidence in their own undertakings is evidenced by the large deposits they have made in share capital, despite other inducements— increase this year, £97,899; and no doubt their confidence will be the greater when they see the reserve fund added to by £20,346. Deserving institutions have not been forgotten, as these have been assisted by £2,693, and for educational purposes, £1,372 has been contributed. Whatever has been found helpful we believe in retaining, so the following table is provided to show the altered position of the combined societies.

	Members.	Sales. £	Profits. £	Share Capital. £.
1916	91,930	4,272,256	854,014	1,544,214
1915	86,149	3,703,183	759,745	1,446,315
Increase for year....	5,781	£569,073	£94,269	£97,899

CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

Continued and unabated has been the interest displayed in the four statutory meetings. Bailie Archbold presided at the first, and Mr. William Nimmon at the remainder.

The first quarterly conference—or annual meeting—was held in the Lothian Hall, Newtongrange, under the auspices of Gorebridge Society. Mr. George Young (chairman of the society) welcomed the delegates, and alluded to the difficulty of getting suitable hall accommodation. The annual report was considered and accepted. Mr. William Nimmo was appointed chairman, Mr. George Gray treasurer; Messrs. W. T. Laing, W. D. Greedy, and E. Young, members of committee; and Messrs. W. Colville and J. C. Cessford, auditors.

Mr. Gebbie (manager of the chemical and sundries department at Shield-hall) read a paper on "The Productions of the Wholesale Chemical Department." A somewhat technical subject was well handled, and running

throughout there was the saving grace of humour. A pointed discussion followed, several of the guildswomen taking part.

Bailie Archbold, in demitting office, expressed the pleasure he had experienced in performing the duties connected with the work of the conference.

The second conference found its venue in the Town Hall, Broxburn, on the invitation of the local society. Mr. Cozzins (chairman of the society) extended a cordial welcome and paid a high tribute to the work of the conference.

Mr. George Williamson (P.A., St. Cuthbert's Association) read a paper on "Some Financial and Economic Aspects of Co-operation." The writer submitted a comprehensive review of the movement. The various phases of co-operative enterprise were examined, viz., productive societies, agricultural societies, and retail societies. Touching upon the proposed taxation of dividends, he contended that our system is a new economy, and emphasised the point that there are no profits in mutual trading. If new taxes were to be imposed, then the true solution was direct taxation upon the ability to pay. A short discussion followed.

Resolution—"That the delegates assembled in conference, representing 85,000 members, protest against the proposal to tax their savings as materialised in co-operative surpluses; pledge themselves to use every means to defend their just rights, and call upon the Government to resist any encroachment on this popular method of practising thrift." This was adopted, and it was agreed that copies be forwarded to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The third conference took place in the Inveresk Parish Hall, under the auspices of Musselburgh and Fisherrow Society. Mr. Andrew Clark (chairman of the society) welcomed the delegates.

The President gratefully acknowledged the welcome, and pointed out the seriousness of the crisis the nation was passing through. He appealed to the delegates to use their influence to get co-operators represented on all public bodies. Mr. G. Peddie was appointed secretary, and Messrs. E. Young and R. Ellis members of committee.

Mr. Allan M'Neil (Lecturer on Banking in Edinburgh University) read his paper entitled "Co-operative Banking." The paper had been written for the National Conference, and was ably read by the author.

The fourth conference was held in the Laundry premises, Chesser Avenue, Edinburgh, on the invitation of St. Cuthbert's Association. Mr. J. W. Thomson (chairman of the society), in welcoming the delegates, said their object in bringing them to the Laundry was to give the delegates an opportunity of seeing the most up-to-date machinery capable of doing a much larger business than they were doing. At the moment they were in a good position for further development, and could do the work of more than their own members.

The President said St. Cuthbert's Society supplied them with an object lesson in the power of democracy to tap the sources of the raw material, as

evidenced in their most complete laundry, and their great agricultural enterprise at Clifton Hall. Commenting on the proposed taxation, he advocated that every society should approach their members of Parliament and put before them the three following questions:—(1) Are you in favour of a representative of the Co-operative Union being on the Sugar Commission? (2) Are you in favour of the excess profits duty as applied to co-operative societies? and (3) Are you against the taxation of co-operative dividends?

The discussion upon Mr. M'Neil's paper on "Co-operative Banking" was resumed. The author, in a short address, pointed out that a Special Committee of the House of Commons had recommended that a National Bank should be instituted on similar lines to those laid down in his paper. This, he suggested, was almost a prophecy, and he hoped the meeting would supply practical hints which could be engrafted into his proposals. A good discussion followed, mostly of a complimentary nature so far as the merits of the paper were concerned, but the feeling was generally expressed that the proposals advocated would be rather a hindrance to the movement than a furtherance of co-operative enterprise.

SHORTAGE OF SUGAR SUPPLIES.

A special meeting of managers and representatives of societies was held in Picardy Place Hall on the 22nd of July, to consider what united action could be taken to improve the present inadequate delivery of this dietetic necessity. Every society was represented. Mr. Nimmo occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings affirmed that one of the functions of the conference was to consider grievances, and that the present inconvenience suffered by the members was sufficient reason for bringing them together.

Mr. Cairns (manager, St. Cuthbert's) delivered an exhaustive review of the causes of the shortage, advocating economy in the individual consumption, the need for the interests of the movement being represented on the Sugar Commission, the adoption of a strong protest, and a united appeal being made to the Commission on behalf of the East of Scotland. Nearly all the managers bore testimony to the great dearth of supplies which the societies were suffering from.

Mr. R. Stewart (chairman, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) outlined the steps they had taken to get larger quantities, and combated the assertions that the East was suffering more than the other districts of Scotland.

Mr. Bardner (director, Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) said they had done all that could be done under the circumstances. He agreed with the complainants that the shortage in the East was very real.

Mr. Gready moved the following resolution, which was accepted:—

"This meeting of managers and directors of co-operative societies trading in the area of the East of Scotland, which has a combined membership of nearly 90,000, and is being largely increased owing to the influx of munition workers, considering the serious position they are placed in owing to the long-

continued shortage of sugar supplies, respectfully place their claims before you for more favourable treatment, and would dutifully request that inquiry be made into the present apportionment of the sugar supply to this district."

Copies of the resolution were forwarded to the Secretary of the Sugar Commission, the Prime Minister, and the President of the Board of Trade. Each society to send a copy to their member of Parliament.

WAGES BOARD.

Through the agency of the Scottish Sectional Board, the attention of societies was drawn to the difficulties existing in securing employes, and the consequent troubles arising through the diversity of opinion prevailing regarding the remuneration the various services should receive. To meet the altered circumstances, it was agreed at special national conferences that wages boards be established in all the conference areas throughout Scotland. Each conference to have a wages board to devise scales of wages for their district, or for different sections of their province. Each wages board having the right to appoint a representative to form the National Defence Board, the aims of which would be the unifying of the whole scheme, and the protection of the interests of societies when any emergency required it. To give effect to these resolutions, a meeting was held on 22nd April, at 92, Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, societies being well represented. Mr. Nimmo, as chairman, explained the position, and moved that a wages board be formed for the East of Scotland. After a full and free discussion, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to give the delegates an opportunity of consulting their committees. The delegates resumed their deliberations on the 3rd of June, and after each delegate's view had been heard, it was resolved by a large majority to form a wages board, consisting of one representative from each society and two from the Conference Committee, the representatives to be members of and elected by their respective societies. Nominations having been received in due course, a meeting was convened for 8th July, when this new scheme was inaugurated, Mr. W. Nimmo being appointed chairman and Mr. G. Peddie, secretary and treasurer.

A number of meetings have been held by the board, under the hospitality of the various societies. All the managers having supplied the present scales of wages being paid, the board have devised scales of wages for productive and distributive departments which they consider fair to the employes and just to the boards of management. The membership of the movement within our sphere of influence is now represented on the board by 87 per cent, and we trust that all the societies will soon come in, as the greater the unity existing amongst us the greater shall be the good exercised for harmoniously working together.

AMALGAMATIONS.

As foreshadowed in our last report, Juniper Green Society has now been linked up with St. Cuthbert's Association, and the small society of Polton has merged into Penicuik Association. The increased trade done in these

districts since these unions have taken place is sufficient ground for saying that these concentrations are all tending towards progress and efficiency.

OBITUARY.

With sincere regret we record the passing away of Mr. William Scott, of St. Cuthbert's, who had been treasurer of the conference for eight years, and who had taken a long and deep interest in co-operation; and of Mr. M'Cairn (Prestonpans), who had been secretary of his society for practically a lifetime. They were men most conscientious and upright in all their dealings, and had well earned the reward of "well done." This is a time of sorrow and bereavement for many of our members. We would extend our sympathy to the relations of all those who have made the supreme sacrifice.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROPAGANDA WORK.

Special Conference.—This annual function to consider the best means of developing co-operative education was held in the Co-operative Hall, Bangor Road, Leith. There was a good representation present from the Educational Committees and the Women's Guild. Mr. William Nimmo occupied the chair, and referred to the quickened interest which had emanated from such gatherings. The secretary submitted a scheme prepared by the Executive, which included many of last year's features with a few innovations. Two of these are worthy of note, as they were well discussed. First, that an essay competition be arranged for juvenile co-operators connected with societies other than St. Cuthbert's and Leith Provident; these societies for this year being left out because they had already held competitions on the booklet, "Our Story." The competition to be under the superintendence of the local educational committees, and the Executive taking charge of the papers when completed. This proposal was heartily supported from all quarters. The second proposal, that a class be formed for female grocers for the purpose of imparting a technical knowledge of the goods they were handling, received a somewhat mixed reception, several speakers contending that it was a valuable departure that ought to be proceeded with. Others, again, with great cogency, argued that the nature of the occupation being temporary, this would create the impression that we were endeavouring to make it permanent, and the result would be rather embarrassing for the societies. The enlightenment received from this discussion induced the committee ultimately to withdraw the proposal. The meeting throughout was animated, and agreed that what is practically a watching brief should be adopted for a defence scheme.

Open-air Meetings.—Through the instrumentality of the National Propaganda Committee a series of twelve open-air demonstrations was arranged. The committee divided into groups, accompanied by Messrs. Flannigan, Handyside, and Councillor Dollan, all of Glasgow, attempted to carry out this programme, but the inclemency of the weather prevented some of the fixtures from taking place. This was regrettable, as there was ample proof

in the meetings which were held that these would have been appreciated. However, we hope the sun will shine more frequently when summer comes round again.

Propaganda Meetings.—The Executive of this conference have always had great faith in the effectiveness of this work, and this year their itinerary has had a wider range than ever. This winter a determined effort has been made to arouse co-operators to a sense of their insecurity through the action of their opponents in and out of the House of Commons. This has been the theme at most of the meetings. Throughout the year meetings have been held at Penicuik, Armadale, East Calder, Musselburgh, Bathgate, Broxburn, Kirkliston, and Pumpherston. All the meetings have been addressed by the members of the committee, and on one occasion we had the assistance of Mrs. McNair speaking on behalf of the guild movement. The audiences have been large and appreciative, and the efforts of all who took part were heartily applauded. Local committees are to be congratulated on the efficiency of their arrangements, and we trust increased prosperity will be their reward.

National Propaganda Meetings.—A series of meetings was offered by the National Committee and readily accepted by us. These have taken place at Newtongrange, West Calder, Tranent, Harthill, and Loanhead. Special speakers were appointed for these meetings, who delivered addresses of marked ability. In most cases these were supplemented by members of our committee and the local officials. Attendances in most cases were very large and very encouraging to those who have this work at heart.

Boot Employés' Class.—At the beginning of March the session of this class was brought to a close by holding an elementary examination. To mark our appreciation of their industry, certificates were granted to those who had justly earned them. Mr. William Shearer having given his award that ten of the papers sent in were of considerable merit, each of these essayists was presented with a certificate after the model of the Co-operative Union. These, we believe, are much treasured. This class was considered to be of such practical value that it was to be continued this winter; but the darkness of the streets was so dangerous—more especially when the class was commencing—that we decided to leave it in abeyance for this session.

EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

In spite of difficulties which are well known to everybody, the various educational committees are pursuing their work. Classes may not be quite so numerous or so largely attended as formerly, this no doubt largely owing to the young men leaving civilian life. Still, propagandist activity is being vigorously followed. There is also an increasing number training and educating the juveniles. This is work we commend, as we cannot capture the minds of the young too soon, and bring them under co-operative influences. A successful educational conference was held on the invitation of Leith Provident Educational Committee at the beginning of the year. Delegates

were present from the Border towns and almost all the educational functions in the city and county. Professor Hall delivered an address on "Co-operative Education," replying to all questions at the close. A good discussion followed. We believe other committees are likely to take up this idea, as it seems to be a splendid medium for radiating light on all subjects which to some are obscure. Tranent Educational Committee have become affiliated to the conference. There are also sub-committees of boards of management acting as educational committees and doing really useful work. Such generous activity will be sure to have satisfactory results.

THANKS.

In concluding, we desire to return thanks for the generous hospitality bestowed, for the intelligent intercourse enjoyed, and for the genuine friendships formed in our foregatherings together. We would also acknowledge with gratitude the kind consideration you have accorded to us in all our transactions.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance from 1916	9	9 0½	By Committee's Expenses	22	3 8
" Bank Interest	0	11 6	" Delegations	22	5 2
" Advertisements	6	0 0	" Delegate to Lancaster Congress	7	7 0
" Contributions from Societies	150	4 2	" Propaganda Meetings	39	12 4
" Contributions from Scottish Nat. Propaganda Committee	28	12 9	" Scottish National Propaganda Meetings	85	9 10
" Contributions from Women's Guild	4	17 6	" Edinburgh Printing Co.	24	19 0
" Educational Committees	1	5 0	" W. Shearer, Teacher, Boot and Shoe Assistants' Class	3	10 0
			" Hall Rent	1	14 0
			" Subscriptions—		
			Scottish Council for Women's Trades	2	0 0
			Convalescent Homes	1	10 0
			Co-operative Veterans' Association	1	1 0
			Co-operative Union	0	10 0
			" (for our Story)	1	19 4
			Co-operative International Alliance	0	12 0
			Railway Nationalisation Soc.	6	10 0
			" Salaries—		
			Chairman of the Conference ..	3	0 0
			Committee	4	0 0
			Secretary	10	0 0
			Treasurer	4	0 0
			Postage	2	16 6
			Auditors	1	0 0
			" Cash in Bank	9	18 9
			" Cash in hand	1	1 4½
	£200	19 11½		£200	19 11½

Auditors—
WM. COLVILLE.
JAMES C. CESSFORD.

GEORGE PEDDIE, Secretary.

No. 5.—FALKIRK.

Executive Committee.

Ex-Bailie Loney, J.P. (president),	Mr. H. Rule, B. and G. Baking.
Denny.	„ H. Brock, Grangemouth.
Mr. Robert Newlands (treasurer),	„ G. M'Nair, Stenhousemuir.
Camelon.	„ A. Thompson, Redding.
„ Thomas Johnston (secretary),	„ Jas. M. Primrose, Camelon; Mr. G.
Falkirk.	Walker, Grahamston (auditors).

Life Members of the Association :

John Liddell (late Treasurer). Robert Marshall (late Secretary).

It is again our pleasant duty to bring before you our annual report and financial and statistical statements. In many respects the year now closed has been one of great anxiety to the leaders of the movement. In its third year the great European conflict is still raging in all its horrors and fierceness. Restrictions and privations are being forced upon us. The co-operative movement has done all in its power to stem the tide of upward prices, but, in face of the apathy of the Government and the powerful combines and trusts out on the make, our efforts have not been crowned with very great success. Still we must take credit for at least keeping down the retail value of the commodities of life, and so lightening the burden on the poorer members of the community.

In taking up our statistical statement, no one can be but struck by the increases that appear there. A pleasing feature is the increase in membership, which to a certain extent makes for the increase in sales; but as we all know, the chief cause is the increased cost of commodities. It is also pleasing to note that our share and loan capital is increasing, showing the faith of the members in their society against the many tempting inducements to place their surplus capital elsewhere. Contributions to charitable and educational purposes also show an upward tendency; but we should like to see a more substantial increase in the educational fund. No doubt the war has curtailed many of the agencies which were at work, but it should be kept prominently before us that the success of the movement can only be maintained by educating the members in the principles of co-operation. Another pleasing feature is the increase in the reserve funds. It is incumbent on every society to make provision in this way for unforeseen circumstances. The great increase in surplus should be a matter of anxiety to boards of management. If the Excess Profits Tax is to be avoided, something will require to be done.

The following statement will show at a glance the position in 1916 as compared with 1915 :—

	Members.	Capital.	Sales.	Profit.	Reserve Fund.
1916..	26,225 ..	£482,991 ..	£1,323,887- ..	£199,724 ..	£28,277
1915..	25,424 ..	468,026 ..	1,106,188 ..	173,900 ..	25,560
Increase.	801	£14,965	£217,699	£25,824	£2,717

The work of the association has been carried on very much as in former years. In 1915 we arranged a series of visits by school children to productive co-operative works in the district, with the best results. We had the assistance of many of the headmasters and teachers, and they have expressed themselves as thoroughly satisfied at the steps taken to interest the children. We had hoped to continue the work in 1916, but your Council thought it should be delayed in the meantime. The cup competition, which has been held annually for some time, and which caused so much friendly rivalry amongst the societies, has been discontinued this year. It was thought undesirable, under the present conditions, to continue this; but as soon as normal times come round we hope the societies will enter the competition with the same zest as formerly.

A series of indoor and outdoor propaganda meetings have been held during the year. Great interest was taken in the meetings, which, with few exceptions, were largely attended. These meetings were arranged to stir up the enthusiasm of the members, and also to bring before the notice of non-co-operators the benefits of the movement. We feel sure the increased membership can be traced to these meetings.

At last, after many years of advocacy, two societies in our district have amalgamated. We congratulate the members of the Stenhousemuir Baking Society and the Stenhousemuir Equitable Society on the step they have taken. We feel sure it will result in good to themselves and co-operation generally. There is still room for further developments, and we look forward to the time when further progress can be reported.

Both the Camelon and Grahamston and Bainsford and Bainsford and Grahamston Educational Associations have held interesting meetings during the session, and all have been fairly well attended. The women's guilds have also carried on their good work, helping each other in many ways, providing comforts for our soldiers and sailors, and entertaining wounded soldiers.

THE WAGES BOARD.

This was formed in July, and we are pleased to say every society in the district, with the exception of Skinflats, became members. A model set of rules were adopted, which have worked fairly well so far, but at the finish of the year it is proposed to revise these and bring them more into line with the needs of the district. The Board was not long in existence before it was called upon to consider a demand from the bakers for an increase of wages. The bakers would not recognise the Wages Board, but would only negotiate through the individual society, with the result that a deadlock took place. The demand not being met by the societies, the bakers came out on strike. Meetings were held with the members of the societies, and as some were in favour of granting the advance, the Wages Board had no alternative but to agree to the bakers' demand. The only satisfactory result of the negotiations in the end was the recognition of the Wages Board by the Bakers' Union. We are at present considering an application from the A.U.C.E. They have cancelled the 1916 agreement, and now demand an increase of 33½ per cent on

troubles and difficulties; trials, however, which indeed seem only to be met to be overcome. Employés have shown extreme dissatisfaction with their labour conditions and wages, and in some cases have even threatened to go out on strike. Coupled with this there is the steady drain of the younger men to the army and the constant necessity to train women to replace them, and, as if the climax had not been reached, the strictest supervision has had to be kept on supplies to individual members.

Under such a régime the pleasures of committees and managers have been to seek, and when found have been frequently of microscopical dimensions. The best rewards to their labours would seem to be the continued increase in membership, financial benefits, and general progress of their societies. To keep the movement to the forefront has been the task of the conference and its committee. As was the case last year, the impossibility of forming and carrying on classes for students was clearly recognised, and advantage of this was taken to put greater stress on the propaganda work. Speakers were soon forthcoming, and under the auspices of the Scottish Propaganda Committee, both in the open air and in halls, according to the season of the year, meetings were held at various centres to instil the benefits of co-operative methods of trading to those who cared to listen. The social aspect of such gatherings was not forgotten, and excellent concert programmes were also carried through. The Conference Committee have strenuously worked to combat the suggestion to tax co-operative dividends, and by organising protest meetings and obtaining definite assurances from members of Parliament for our own constituency no means have been spared to show the unfairness to societies of such a proposal, as well as the unfortunate results of the excess profits duty.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

The meeting in February was held at Kelty. Resolutions submitted by Pathhead and Sinclairtown Society protesting against the increased cost of living and calling upon the Government to take the necessary steps to prevent this was agreed to. Mr. George Spalding (treasurer) read a paper on "Co-operation During and After the War."

The May meeting was held under the auspices of the Pathhead and Sinclairtown Society. This being the annual meeting, the secretary's report and statistical statement were submitted and approved. The usual election of retiring members of Executive was intimated, viz.: President, treasurer, and two members of committee. This meeting, however, did not pass without a surprise, for on Mr. McConnell's unanimous re-election to the presidency—a position he has held for so many years—to the great regret of the delegates present he intimated that he did not intend to seek office at the next election.

The August meeting was held under the auspices of Dunfermline Society. Resolution by Pathhead and Sinclairtown Society—"That this conference demands in future that its officials and members who are or may be elected to public bodies shall support matters affecting co-operative principles when

they arise in these bodies," was, on a division, carried by a considerable majority.

Mr. Allan McNeil's paper on "Co-operative Banking" was read by Mr. Purdie (Scottish Section). The question of allowing time at a subsequent meeting for discussion was remitted to Executive.

The meeting in November was held in the United Free Church Hall, under the auspices of East Wemyss Society. The subject for discussion was a paper read by Mr. J. M. Wilkie, M.A. (Scottish Section), "Co-operators and Income Tax on Dividends and Excess Profit Duty." A suitable resolution on the subject being submitted and carried, was ordered to be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and members of Parliament for local constituencies.

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

First, a meeting of representatives from boards of management and Conference Executive was held in April, to consider the formation of a wages board for the district. On a vote it was decided that the Executive Committee of the Conference form the Wages Board for the present year, and remit resolutions made for them to draw up rules to be submitted to a subsequent meeting.

This meeting was held in August, under the auspices of Markinch Society, when the rules as drafted by the Executive were considered, amended, and agreed to. Second, two meetings were held, one at Buckhaven and one at Pathhead, *re* a proposal for amalgamation of the societies in the Eastern part of the district. After considerable discussion a basis of agreement could not be arrived at, the question meantime being allowed to drop.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

The following meetings were held :—Under the auspices of the Scottish National Propaganda Committee—At Thornton, Leven, Lochgelly, Glencray, Bowhill, Kelty, Kirkcaldy, Buckhaven, and Methil; under the conference auspices—At Auchtermuchty and Burntisland.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Fourteen Executive meetings have been held during the year, to make the usual arrangements for conferences and special meetings, the usual friendly and fraternal meetings being held with the committees of societies at the close of these meetings.

GALLATOWN RELIEF FUND.

We are pleased to acknowledge the liberality of the societies in Scotland to this fund, the amount subscribed, with interest, being £688. 3s. 4d. Statement of disbursement submitted.

When thanking the societies that have generously entertained the delegates attending meetings, we have specially to acknowledge the kindness of the committee of Pathhead and Sinclairtown in this respect, as train arrangements

compelled your Executive to avail themselves of their readiness to help us in our work.

In closing our report, we are pleased to note the excellent work by our women's guilds during the year in their endeavours to provide comfort and entertainment to "our boys" undergoing military training in their respective towns and villages.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance in hand	30	8 1	By Committee's Fees	22	2 2
„ Subscriptions from Societies ..	84	2 4	„ Delegation ..	12	7 6
„ Subscriptions from Women's Guilds	1	7 6	„ Railway Fares	22	16 10
„ Subscriptions from Educational Committees	3	0 0	„ Postages and Commission	4	17 6
„ Advertising	5	17 6	„ Carriage	0	4 9
„ Balance—Gallatown Relief Fund ..	1	11 8	„ Hires	1	6 0
„ Interest on Deposit Receipt	0	4 2	„ Congress Delegate (Lancaster) ..	7	11 11
			„ Co-op. Veterans' Association ..	1	10 0
			„ Balance—Gallatown Fund to Veterans' Association	1	11 8
			„ Convalescent Homes	1	10 0
			„ International Alliance	2	0 0
			„ Printing	11	5 10
			„ Propaganda meetings	11	2 2
			„ Earlston Relief Fund	1	0 0
			„ E. Owen Greening Fund	1	0 0
			„ Students' Summer School	3	0 0
			„ Reader of Conference Paper ..	1	0 0
			„ Secretary's Salary	5	0 0
			„ Treasurer's ..	2	0 0
			„ Deposit Receipt	12	0 0
			„ Cash in hand	1	4 11
	£126	11 8		£126	11 3

Audited—

DAVID PEEBLES.

ABSTRACT GALLATOWN RELIEF FUND.

£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
To Subscriptions received from Societies	677	5 6	By Disbursed to members	674	17 0
„ Interest on Deposit Receipt ..	10	17 10	„ Expenses ..	11	14 8
Audited—DAVID PEEBLES.			„ Balance to Co-operative Veterans' Association	1	11 8
	£688	3 4		£688	3 4

JOHN PATTERSON, Secretary.

NO. 7.—FORFARSHIRE, PERTHSHIRE, AND ABERDEENSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. G. J. Mathews (president), Perth.	Mr. George Wilson, Aberdeen.
„ Alfred O'Neil (secretary), Brechin.	„ Robert Martin, Dundee.
„ John Muir (treasurer), Dundee.	„ D. McCulloch, Carnoustie.
„ D. G. Merchant (statistical secretary), Monifieth.	„ John C. Hendry, Brechin.
„ Colin M. Fulton, Dundee.	„ John Sinclair, Muthill.

A limit of five hundred words only allows a bare summary of the report which has been presented to our members.

Much time and attention has been devoted to watching and counter-acting the manoeuvres of those parties to whom the safety and future of the State are as nothing compared with an opportunity to attack and cripple

the aspirations of the common people represented by the co-operative movement, through unjust taxation. Our written representations to district members of Parliament on those matters seldom receive much attention, and closer grip with Parliamentary representatives, and Parliament itself, is necessary to be of any use.

Substantial additions to our membership have been made. Four Forfar societies have affiliated, while the Montrose Association has also linked up with us, thus completing the chain whereby every town in the accessible district, where a society exists, is connected with the Conference Association.

On the whole, each society has made considerable progress in membership and trade, and deserves more credit than members often vouchsafe to them for catering so well to their needs amid the countless embarrassments of the time.

The usual quarterly conferences were held as under :—

Date.	Place of Meeting.	Subject.	Author.	Attendance.
1916. April.	Dundee	Co-operative Advertising : Extensive and Intensive.	Mr. John Muir (Treasurer)	123
July.	Crieff	Building the Co-operative Commonwealth.	Mr. W. S. Reid, joint Editor <i>Scottish Co-operator.</i>	72
Oct	Arbroath ..	The Economic Results of the War and their effect upon the Co-operative Movement.	Professor Hall (read by Mr. Mathews).	143
1917. Jan.	Brechin	Attempts to Undermine the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. William Gallacher. Director S.C.W.S.	85

These meetings maintained their high standard of discussion, and influenced the policy of many societies.

The important question of drawing the co-operative societies and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society retail branches north of Aberdeen together in occasional conference was brought a step forward through the sympathetic reception of our proposals to the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's Board, and after the war, when conditions approaching normal may again maintain, we anticipate the launching of a practical scheme.

The educational work of many societies is proceeding vigorously, in spite of the distraction of the war. Perth, Brechin, and Arbroath have a gratifying record in this respect. We again organised a series of lectures throughout

the district, which proved a great success. Along with the Scottish National Propaganda Committee, several capital propaganda meetings were also held. Mr. McLean, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's propaganda agent, has been eminently successful in the North, having been instrumental in opening five branches in three years in that particular part of the country, besides a new society at Invergordon.

Joint co-operative and trade union demonstrations at Arbroath and Brechin supporting the agitation for increased old-age pensions and reduced prices for life's necessities received our active support.

Arbroath High Street Society and West Port Association have each opened new branches, and Brechin United Society opened a very fine, enlarged and reconstructed drapery department during the year.

We regret the passing of Messrs. John Salmond (Carnoustie), James Butchart (Arbroath), William Hood, T. B. Young, and William Thomson (Perth), notable co-operators in their time.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1915	11	2	4	By Railway Fares	15	14	8
„ Subscriptions	71	7	3	„ Allowances	6	2	6
„ Advertising—				„ Lost Time	5	12	11
Paisley Co-operative Manufac-				„ Council Meetings	3	13	6
turing Society ..	1	0	0	„ Postage, Carriage, and Bank Com-			
Scottish Co-operative Whole-				mission	6	15	11
sale Society	0	15	0	„ Printing, Stationery, &c.	10	4	6
Scottish Co-operator Newspaper				• Delegate to British Congress at			
Society	0	13	6	Lancaster	6	17	0
United Co-operative Baking				„ Crieff Purvey	5	5	1
Society	1	3	6	„ Subscriptions—			
„ Investments—				Co-operative Convalescent			
Co-operative Convalescent				Homes	1	10	0
Homes	1	0	0	International Co-operative			
Scottish Co-operative Veterans'				Alliance	2	0	0
Association Ltd.	1	0	0	Scottish Co-operative Veterans'			
„ Bank Interest	0	13	11	Association	1	1	0
				Earlston Relief Fund	1	0	0
				„ Allowances—			
				Secretary	2	0	0
				Statistical Secretary	1	0	0
				Treasurer	1	0	0
				„ Investments—			
				Convalescent Homes	1	0	0
				Scottish Co-operative Veterans'			
				Association	1	0	0
				„ Balance—			
				Cash in Bank	9	3	9
				Cash on hand	7	14	8
	£88	15	6		£88	15	6

EDUCATION FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1915	13	16	9	By Railway Fares	4	16	7
„ Subscriptions—				„ Lost Time ..	1	13	9
Aberdeen Northern Company .	8	0	0	„ Allowances	3	12	6
Brechin United	3	0	0	„ Printing, &c.	3	10	6
City of Perth	3	3	0	„ Postages, &c.	0	13	5
				„ College Herald Circle	1	1	0
				„ Co-operative Reference Library—			
				Dublin	0	5	0
				„ Balance—Cash in Bank	0	12	7
	£27	19	9		£27	19	9

DEFENCE FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1915	28	5	6	By Railway Fares	3	4	9
„ Subscriptions—				„ Lost Time	1	4	6
Aberdeen Northern Company..	5	5	0	„ Allowances.....	0	15	0
Brechin United	0	14	0	„ Postages, &c.....	0	3	4
Audited—				„ Balance—Cash in Bank.....	28	16	11
DAVID SMALL.							
ROBERT CLARK.	£34	4	6		£34	4	6

ALFRED O'NEIL, Secretary.

No. 8.—GLASGOW AND SUBURBS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. John M. Biggar (president),	Mr. James Bowie, St. George, Glasgow.
Milngavie.	„ William Grindlay, Vale of Leven.
„ Walter Weir (secretary), Govanhill.	„ William Mason, Dalmuir.
„ William Pettigrew (treas.), Glasgow.	„ Alex. Strang, Cowlares, Glasgow.
„ A. R. Chaddock (statistical secretary),	„ John Richardson, Dumbarton.
Ibrox.	„ James Russell, St. Rollox, Glasgow
„ Arch. Henderson (auditor), Glasgow.	„ Malcolm Ross, Glasgow Eastern.
Mrs. McFie, Kinning Park, Glasgow.	„ Charles Hamilton, Shettleston.

We have pleasure in again submitting the record of our year's work, which has been somewhat curtailed owing to the unusual conditions prevailing. It is regrettable to all peace-loving co-operators that the nation is still engaged in this carnage which is depriving many of them of their husbands, sons, and brothers. Besides the suffering of individuals, the staffs of societies have been so depleted that the service is no longer maintained at the standard of efficiency that we expect in the movement.

The year has been characterised by the appointment of numerous commissions and committees to deal with the foodstuffs of the community, but we regret that no official co-operator has found a place there, which, we hold, has been a great loss to the country, as who are more able to deal with these questions than the chief officials and directors of our wholesale societies or the general managers of many of our retail societies. Every article dealt with by these Government committees has been the subject of serious blundering, and much discontent has followed their efforts at distribution, which has been carried through upon a most inequitable basis. We trust that co-operators all over the country will wake up and agitate for the return to all legislative and administrative bodies men of our own way of thinking, so that we can remedy the many grievances which co-operators have been subjected to at this time. We would sincerely counsel all societies to appoint from their members defence committees, so that our machinery would be in working order when peace is declared, at which time a reconstruction of society is expected to take place. Unless this is done our opponents will be in the field before us, and we will be made to suffer from all the injustices which they have in store for us. The operation of the excess profits tax

and the suggested taxation of dividends should be sufficient to spur co-operators on to do their duty to themselves and to the whole community, who we hope to see embraced in a movement so pregnant with possibilities, the realisation of which would be the establishment of that co-operative commonwealth to which we are all looking forward.

EXTENSION OF PREMISES, SALES, AND MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of societies has largely increased, and many societies are finding it difficult to cope with the business, but the time is inopportune for any extension of premises. The sales have increased in greater ratio than the membership, this being due directly to the enhanced prices paid for goods. Committees are apt to be deceived by this, and it would be well if they introduced a system of quantities instead of money value of goods when preparing tabulated statements for comparative purposes.

OVERLAPPING AND AMALGAMATION.

The evil of overlapping goes merrily on, and during the year we regret that negotiations have failed to bring about a settlement between St. George and Cowlares societies in Possil Park.

Cambuslang, Gilbertfield, and Newton societies have held meetings to consider their amalgamation, but up to the time of writing they have not been able to come to terms. We suggested this threefold joining up in our last report, along with that of the Clydebank area, comprising Clydebank, Dalmuir, Duntocher and Blairdardie. As time goes on we are hopeful to see these two amalgamations carried through.

EDUCATIONAL WORK BY SOCIETIES.

Besides the well-known agencies, several societies have now got men's guilds, which give great promise of valuable propaganda for societies. Many societies have held great meetings in protest of the excess profits tax and the proposal to tax dividends. They were well attended, and some of our societies have sent circulars to every member drawing their attention to these iniquities and asking for a return of the circulars with a pledge to support no Parliamentary candidate who is in favour of these abuses.

On the initiation of Clydebank Society, a federation of Dumbartonshire societies was formed for defence purposes, and we would recommend that all Parliamentary constituencies in our area should have a similar committee.

PROPAGANDA WORK.

We have organised several meetings in our district, some directly from our own finances and some in conjunction with the National Propaganda Committee. These were all very successful from an attendance point of view, and the lectures given, all on co-operative subjects, were highly appreciated. These meetings were held in Duntocher, Cathcart, Lennoxton, Gilbertfield, Dumbarton, and Milngavie. We had also an indoor demonstration of children in Cambuslang, taken part in by Cambuslang, Gilbertfield,

and Newton societies, and our thanks are due to Cambuslang Society for putting its hall at our disposal.

We will be pleased to hear from any society which desires our services for propaganda work, and requests sent to the secretary up to the end of August will receive our consideration.

CLASSES.

We have been unable to carry on any classes for men, the reason being obvious, but we had a very successful class for boot department employes in the Glasgow Athenæum. The lecturer was Mr. David Hamilton (Cowlairst), and we feel sure much benefit accrued to the students who attended the lectures.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

We had four during the year, held under the auspices of the following societies:—St. Rollox, Laundry Association, Vale of Leven, and Kinning Park. The subjects and papers discussed were as follows:—"What the Co-operative Movement could do to Regulate Prices," by Mr. John Clark (Perth); "Annual Report," by Mr. A. R. Chaddock; "Some Points on the Income Tax Question," by Mr. James Deans; "National Housing," by Councillor John Wheatley (Glasgow). There were keen and profitable discussions on all subjects, and the attendance of delegates was up to the usual standard. We had a special conference in March, under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, when we were fortunate in securing the services of J. H. Jones, Esq. (Glasgow University), who gave us an educative address on the subject of "Interest and Economy," a question which is worthy of our serious consideration at this time.

CONCLUSION.

During the year we have had a change in the presidential chair. Mr. Lucas, who had served for seventeen years, had, owing to pressure of other business, to leave us, and we take this opportunity of thanking the many societies which subscribed to the handsome testimonial of appreciation of the many services rendered to the movement by our retiring president. His successor is Mr. John M. Biggar, who came to the chair with all the qualifications begotten of long experience in the co-operative movement.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward	87	17 8	By Postage and Postal Orders	5	10 0
" Subscriptions	194	8 3	" Committee Allowance	52	16 6
" Collection for Co-op. Veterans' Associations	2	17 2	" Travelling Expenses	86	10 7
" Advertisements	4	10 0	" Lost Time ..	9	13 9
" Refunded—Delegates' Expenses, Scottish National Conference, Clydebank	6	7 10	" Printing and Stationery	25	16 0
" Testimonial to ex-President, Mr. James Lucas, M.A.	25	16 6	" Salaries:—		
" Bank Interest	1	5 1	President	2	0 0
			Secretary	10	0 0
			Treasurer	2	0 0
			Statistical Secretary (and Expenses)	3	18 3
			Auditor	1	1 0 3
Carried forward	323	2 6	Carried forward	149	6 1

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Brought forward.....	323	2	6	Brought forward	149	6	1
				By Rent—Committee Meetings	5	0	0
				" Speakers at Conferences	3	5	0
				" Boot Class Expenses	11	6	5
				" Congress Delegate's Expenses . .	5	16	8
				" Summer School Delegate's Ex- penses.....	9	10	0
				" Insurance of Council (Accident)..	1	15	0
				" Income Tax	0	8	8
				" Scottish Co-operator.....	3	9	4
				" Co-operative News.....	4	0	9
				" Propaganda Meetings (Expenses at)—			
				Annisland	10	4	10
				Cambuslang Children's Gala	8	8	9
				Tollcross	3	9	2
				Gilbertfield	4	1	0
				" Donations to—			
				Glasgow Labour Party.....	2	2	0
				Scottish Co-operative Musical Association	2	2	0
				Co-op. Convalescent Homes Association	1	10	0
				Scottish Co-op. Veterans' Association	1	10	0
				Scottish Co-op. Ambulance Association	1	1	0
				International Co-op. Alliance	1	0	0
				Earlston Relief Fund	1	1	0
				Dumbartonshire Defence Fed.	2	0	0
				" Petty Expenses.....	1	10	9
				" Testimonial to ex-President.....	25	13	4
				" Collection to Veterans' Associa- tion	2	17	2
				" Cash in Bank and on hand.....	57	14	0
				" Share in Scottish Co-operator Newspaper Society	1	0	0
				" Share in Scottish Co-operative Veterans' Association	1	0	0
				" Share in Co-op. Convalescent Homes Ltd.....	1	0	0
Audited— ARCHIBALD HENDERSON.	£323	2	6		£323	2	6

WALTER WEIR, Secretary.

No. 9.—RENFREWSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. Wm. Steel, (president), Paisley.
 „ Donald Mackerron (secretary),
 Greenock.
 „ John Muir (treasurer), Elderslie.
 „ John Paton (statistical secretary),
 Paisley.

Mr. David Balnave, Paisley Equitable.
 „ A. Davidson, Pollokshaws.
 „ Robert Craig, Newton Mearns.
 „ John Ritchie, Paisley.
 „ A. M. Fraser (auditor), Paisley.

Scottish Section's Representative : Mr. J. M. Wilkie.

Your committee have pleasure in again submitting for your consideration and approval their report and statistical statement for the past twelve months. It has been a year of great anxiety to all, and the outlook is still sufficient to cause all thoughtful people great concern. We see the war of nations prosecuted with greater ruthlessness every day. The management of all our societies have been beset with many cares and difficulties, and it says much

for the foundation on which we have built that we seem to be gaining ground in all directions. Shortness of supplies and scarcity of labour are the most serious difficulties to be faced by the management of societies to-day. The cost of living has risen far beyond the extra remuneration the workers have received. Notwithstanding the increased cost of all articles, there has been a vast expansion of our great movement. New members are being enrolled in greater numbers than ever. The profiteers have been so bold in their demands, and so regardless of the people's well-being, that it is nothing short of a national scandal that such things are allowed at a time like this. When the worker is staking his all as a patriot, it is hard for him to see the profiteers reaping such a golden harvest, and be unable to do anything to put a stop to such actions. A more bitter attack than was ever ventured on before is now in progress by those who, for private reasons, are against our system of trading. They are staking their all on the last throw of the dice. They can see that we will ultimately prove victors; and to cripple us they have put forth every effort to induce the Government to agree to the taxation of dividends.

CONFERENCE MEETINGS.

The quarterly conference in February, which is termed our annual meeting, was held in the Public Hall, Nitshill, when we were the guests of the Hurlet and Nitshill Society. Mr. William Steel (president) occupied the chair, and, in the course of his remarks, referred in feeling terms to the loss which the Renfrewshire conference area had sustained in particular, and the whole movement in general, by the passing away of three such outstanding men as Messrs. Pinkerton and Ferguson (Barrhead) and Allan (Pollokshaws), and requested the delegates to rise in their places as a token of respect to their memory. Mr. Montgomerie (president of the local society) welcomed the delegates to the district. The treasurer's statement was considered and reported on by Mr. Fraser (auditor), who certified to our sound position financially. The report was agreed to without comment. Mr. Muir being only nominee as treasurer was declared duly elected for the next twelve months. Mr. Paton, only nominee, was declared elected statistical secretary for the next twelve months. The voting for a member of committee resulted in the election of Paisley Equitable for twelve months. Mr. Montgomerie read a paper entitled "Some Characteristics of the Early Pioneers." Mr. Deans gave us some of his own personal reminiscences of the early co-operators he had met, which were much enjoyed. Mr. Glasse (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society) and Mr. Gerrard (United Co-operative Baking Society) complimented the reader of the paper, and testified to the pleasure they had enjoyed in listening to it. The following resolution was agreed to unanimously:—"That the committee be empowered to take any steps deemed necessary by them in objecting to income tax on dividends of societies." It was also agreed to send a resolution to the Prime Minister and local members of Parliament, dealing with the question of high food prices. A pleasing

feature was the presentation of two prizes awarded by the section to David Sloan (Paisley Equitable) and Alice M. Reid (Renfrew Equitable) in the open essay competition. These were presented by Mr. Wilkie, who stated he was proud of the fact that the first prize had come to Renfrewshire.

The second meeting was held in the Templars' Hall, Kilbarchan, under the auspices of the Kilbarchan Society, Mr. William Steel (president) in the chair. The statistical statement was supplemented by Mr. Paton, and seemed to satisfy most of the delegates, and adoption of same was unanimously agreed to. Mr. William Steel was nominated for president and Mr. D. MacKerron was nominated for secretary. Mr. Gavin (manager West Port Association, Arbroath) read a paper entitled "Watchman, what of the Night?" A good discussion followed, which brought out many and varied opinions on the paper. It was agreed that although all our sympathies were with the endeavour to form a Labour College for Scotland, we as a conference should take no active part in this matter. The president then presented the prizes to the successful competitors in the essay competition.

The third meeting was held in the Temperance Institute, Greenock, by invitation of the Greenock Central Society. Mr. John Paton, at the request of the Executive, occupied the chair. In his remarks he referred to the president, Mr. Steel, being called to the colours. He was sure the conference was unanimous in expressing to the president their good wishes, and he hoped he would be spared to return to them. The chairman intimated that Mr. Steel was the only nominee for president, but, as he was not likely to be present at the meetings under the circumstances, he left the matter entirely in the hands of the delegates. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Steel be appointed to the position of president, although he would not be able to fulfil the duties. It was further agreed that the Executive be empowered to appoint the acting chairman during Mr. Steel's absence. The chairman declared Mr. D. MacKerron, the only nominee, re-elected secretary for the next twelve months. Newton Mearns was elected to appoint a representative to the committee for the next twelve months. Mr. J. M. Wilkie read a paper on "Co-operators and Income Tax." Mr. Wilkie, in reply to the remarks on his paper, said it was not sufficient for conferences to take this matter up, but that all societies should educate and interest their members on the question, so that they may act unitedly as one body. A circular from Johnstone and District Trades Council *re* Labour representation was remitted back to the Executive for further consideration and report. Mr. Turner (Paisley Provident) gave notice of motion to alter system of roll call.

The fourth meeting was held in Paisley, under the auspices of the Paisley societies. For auditor, Mr. A. M. Fraser was again re-elected. As a Renfrewshire representative on the Scottish Section, Mr. J. M. Wilkie was again recommended for the support of the societies. Mr. John Paton was again nominated as statistical secretary. For treasurer, Mr. John Muir was once more the only nominee. Professor Hall was expected to be with us to deal with his paper on "The Economic Results of the War, and their effect

on the Movement." Unfortunately, Mr. Hall could not attend, and Mr. Craig (of the committee) was asked to read the paper, which was performed in a very capable manner. Thereafter the delegates gave a warm vote of thanks to Mr. Craig for the able way in which he had read the paper. Paisley Provident moved the motion standing in their name, that the calling of roll be done away with, and that slips be attached to the billets for name of delegate and society; this was seconded. The previous question was moved and seconded, and carried by a large majority.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE *re* WAGES BOARD.

A feature of the past twelve months has been the desire of the Co-operative Union to have a real national system of deciding scales of wages for the various services within our movement. To meet such a desire a special conference was called, under the auspices of the section, when it was agreed that wages boards be formed in every conference area throughout Scotland—each conference area to devise a scale of wages which would be suitable for their province—and that a defence board be formed of one representative from each wages board, the aims of which would be the protection of societies' interests when any emergency required it. In accordance with this, a special meeting of the conference was held in the Co-operative Hall, Causeyside Street, on Saturday, 6th May. The societies, with two exceptions, were all represented. Mr. T. Dykes (manager, Barrhead Society) introduced the subject, and gave reasons why a wages board should be formed. After some discussion, it was agreed that such a board be formed, and that it consist of one representative from each society; that the chairman, secretary, and treasurer of the conference hold the same positions respectively on the wages board; that none of these three officials have a deliberate vote, but that the chairman shall have a casting vote. We have had several meetings, and have compiled a complete list of what societies now pay the various grades of service. It now rests with the board to arrange its future work and action.

NATIONAL DEFENCE BOARD.

The secretary was appointed to represent our Wages Board on the National Defence Board, which is formed of one representative of each wages board. We have had several meetings, and your secretary was appointed secretary of the Defence Board. We drew up a set of rules, and submitted same to the Co-operative Union for their approval.

PROPAGANDA.

Our activities in this direction have not been so pronounced this year. The reason for that is partly the lighting restrictions in force and partly the excessive amount of overtime which is being worked at the present time. A meeting, under the auspices of the Scottish National Propaganda Committee, was held in Pollokshaws. It was very successful, the meeting being largely attended. A further meeting has been arranged to take place on the 20th

March, and is to be addressed by Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P. The arrangements for this meeting are in the hands of a local committee representing all the Paisley societies. A further meeting has also been arranged, to be addressed by Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., in Port-Glasgow Town Hall, the arrangements for which are also in the hands of a local committee.

EDUCATIONAL.

The essay competition which was held in the early part of the year was fairly successful. The essays, on the whole, were well written, and the adjudicator (Mr. Lucas, Scottish Section) commented very favourably on what had been done. Those who took part in the competition were far too few in numbers to satisfy the committee. Some societies did better than others, but it really rests with co-operators themselves whether such ventures will be successful. If the parents of our children do not interest themselves in such matters, how can we expect to get the children? The interest and help of all educational committees should be with us in these endeavours, and some means should be devised whereby we can rouse all from their apparent apathy. Again, we ventured on the holding of speakers' classes; and, although the need for education in this way is so necessary in a movement such as ours, we cannot help being disappointed with the result. At considerable trouble and a good deal of expense three classes were arranged for—at Thornliebank, Paisley, and Greenock. The class held at Thornliebank was conducted by Mr. D. Mason, of Paisley, a gentleman who has had considerable experience in such classes. It was thought this was the most convenient centre for five societies—namely, Pollokshaws, Newton Mearns, Hurlet, Barrhead, and Thornliebank. The class had, however, to be discontinued, after three nights, for want of attendance, which was regrettable. The Paisley class is under the able guidance of Mr. J. M. Wilkie, and has had a considerable amount of success, but not nearly what such a class should command in a centre like Paisley. The Greenock class has been in charge of Mr. J. Downie, of Wishaw, and for those who attended it has been of great educative interest; but we have the same drawback here—we cannot get those who are responsible for managing the affairs of societies to come and be educated. The women's guilds throughout our area still continue their activities, and good work has been done in our guilds by propagating the co-operative spirit. The men's guild movement is slowly gaining ground, and deserves much better support than is given it. The same failing is observed in this effort also—namely, the apathy of the average co-operator to interest himself in his own business.

In concluding, we desire to thank the societies for the generous hospitality bestowed on us, and we can assure all that we appreciate the kindness shown and courteous treatment received, which make our endeavours to do our work a pleasure at all times.

position attained by the movement during the time of stress we have been passing through. To those who have been more closely associated with the management of our societies we are indebted, as in connection with the commercial side of our movement there have been many irritating and annoying incidents during the past year. The shortage of labour, dissatisfied employes, the curtailment of service, and inadequate supply of goods, the desire to keep the dividend and yet escape excess profit, &c., have all been problems that were in some cases not easily got over. At a time such as the present, with the commodities of life beyond the reach of many, it would have been not only an object lesson, but a noble performance, if societies in a given area could have come to an understanding to presently reduce their dividends by 25 to 50 per cent, and sell the necessities of life correspondingly less, the movement would have been of greater service to our poorer members. While in most localities trade has been fairly plentiful, there are many districts where wages have not increased to any great extent, and where war bonuses have not been paid. To those coming under this category the problem of living must be a serious question, and to them the idea of co-operative societies paying Excess Profits Duty must seem somewhat out of place.

While the commercial side of co-operation in our district leaves little to be desired, it is satisfactory to note that a fair amount of educational work has been carried through in the form of lectures. We can congratulate ourselves on the success attained at the three lectures given in this district under the auspices of the Scottish Co-operative Propaganda Committee; all these meetings were marked by a decided improvement in attendance and enthusiasm on previous meetings of the kind. The display of posters and the distribution of co-operative literature in connection with this work will ultimately have its effect in good for our societies and the movement as a whole.

During the year the activities of the association were much as in previous years—the holding of quarterly meetings and the consideration of many matters pertaining to the organisation. The formation of a Wages Board has now taken practical shape, and it is hoped that, should the services of this Board be required, good and efficient results will accrue.

The first quarterly conference for the year was held under the auspices of Alva Society, when Mr. Andrew Young (Edinburgh) submitted a well-reasoned paper entitled "The Educational and Commercial Policy of Co-operation after the War." The paper was well received, and produced an interesting discussion. There was the usual routine of business particular to this meeting, viz., the annual report and statistical statement, &c., which were considered and approved.

The next meeting took place in the historic town of Bannockburn, on the 20th May, when a very practical paper was read by one of our own delegates, and very favourably commented on, and from which practical results are fully expected. The title of the paper was "The Responsibility of the Wholesale

having All Goods Carriage Paid," the author being Mr. Alexander M'Leod (president of Dunfermline Society). The subject and discussion reflected credit on both reader and listeners.

Our third conference was held in the Public Hall, Coalsnaughton, at the end of August, the delegates being the guests of the local society. At this meeting the president of the association made timely reference to the agitation our opponents were stirring up to have co-operative dividends taxed, and emphasised the necessity of every society making its members conversant with all details connected therewith, so that when the time for action came, we would be able as a body to repudiate any unjust taxation. Mr. Alexander Gebbie (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society's Sundries Department) provided to those present a literary treat, dealing with the many and varied articles manufactured by that department of the Wholesale. The various details given were amazing and wonderful, and Mr. Gebbie, in a capable manner, conveyed to those present the intricacies and ramifications of even one department of the Wholesale. The reader was highly complimented on the manner in which the subject was served up, and it is hoped, as a result of such a practical paper, the department will benefit. The secretary and two members of committee were duly re-elected for another year.

The last meeting for the year was held under the auspices of the Clackmannan Society in the Town Hall of the county town. A very appropriate paper, prepared by Professor Hall (the Adviser of Studies to the Co-operative Union), entitled "The Economic Results of the War and their Effect on the Co-operative Movement," was laid before the delegates by Mr. James Deans (Scottish Section). The paper was ably handed by Mr. Deans, and while it did not produce much discussion, the subject was of a very practical and educative nature, and was favourably commented on.

During the year the usual meetings of committee have been held, at which many interesting and often serious matters were considered and reported on, either through the minutes or at our quarterly meetings.

Our women's guilds are still proving they can be of service, for while always taking an active and enthusiastic interest in the welfare of our societies, we find they are devoting a fair portion of their time in providing comforts for our soldiers, the respective societies giving every assistance.

To the societies we have visited during the year with quarterly or committee meetings our generous thanks are due, as the friendliness and hospitality extended were greatly admired and appreciated, and indicated an interest for one another that is an omen for good, and should not be lost sight of.

Let us hope the year we have entered on may prove a year of progress for co-operation in general. The condition of our supplies is very trying and uncertain, and over this alone trouble may arise. Other problems are continually cropping up, and our principal duty is to face these matters with due consideration, and in all probability they will be surmounted more easily than at first imagined.

During the past year, even in this district, which has the greatest per-

centage of co-operators to population in any district in Scotland, a good proportion of new members have joined our societies. It is our duty to see that they are retained and made aware of the practical value of co-operation.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.		Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last Report.....	85	10	5½		By Secretary, £3; Treasurer, £3....	6	0	0
" Subscriptions'	76	3	3		" Committee's Allowances and Ex-			
" Advertisements	3	3	0		penses	13	17	4
" Interest from Bannockburn					" Delegates and Deputations	9	11	4
Society	2	9	10		" Delegate to Lancaster Congress..	6	3	0
					" Auditor's Fee	0	10	6
					" Readers of Papers	3	5	0
					" Printing Annual Reports	3	15	0
					" Printing and Advertising	3	5	0
					" Veterans' Association	1	0	0
					" Scottish Council for Women's			
					Trades.....	0	10	0
					" International Alliance	0	12	0
Audited—					" Scottish Propaganda Committee..	1	0	0
THOMAS JINKS.					" Burston School Strike Fund... ..	0	10	0
					" Purveying Teas at Conferences..	17	12	0
					" Musical Association	0	10	0
					" Leaflets and Envelopes.....	0	17	0
					" Secretary's Postages, &c.....	2	12	0
					" Treasurer's Postages and Bank			
					Commission	1	1	2
					" Cash in Bannockburn Society ..	83	0	0
					" Cash in Treasurer's hands	11	15	2½
	<u>£167</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6½</u>			<u>£167</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6½</u>

WILLIAM M'ISAAC, Secretary.



(6) SOUTHERN SECTION.

The Board held fourteen meetings during the year, of which twelve were ordinary and three special.

The attendances of the members of the Board were as follows:—

	Possible.	Actual.	Absent.	Sick.
Mr. W. H. Brown	15	6	*9	—
Mr. W. T. Charter	15	14	—	1
Mr. M. H. Clear	15	14	—	1
Mr. S. Foulger	15	13	—	2
Mrs. M. A. Gasson	15	15	—	—
Mr. A. Hainsworth.....	15	14	1	—
Mr. E. King	15	15	—	—
Mr. R. Rowsell.....	15	15	—	—
Mr. W. J. Salmon	15	13	2	—

* Removed to Manchester.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting of the Board held 28th June, 1916:—

Chairman Mrs. M. A. Gasson.

Sectional Executive Mrs. M. A. Gasson, Messrs. W. H. Brown, M. H. Clear, S. Foulger, and E. King.

Boundaries Committee .. The members composing the Executive.

To Deal with Production Messrs. W. T. Charter and W. J. Salmon.

Representatives to the—

United Board Mrs. M. A. Gasson and Mr. W. T. Charter.

Office Committee Mrs. M. A. Gasson.

Central Education Committee Mr. A. Hainsworth.

Southern Education Association Messrs. R. Rowsell and W. J. Salmon.

Southern Choral Association Messrs. W. H. Brown and M. H. Clear.

PROGRESS IN THE SECTION.

Judging from the information available at the time this report is in preparation, there is reason to believe the movement in the Southern Section has enjoyed a period of prosperity and extension.

During the past two or three years there has been on the part of the general public an awakening to the intrinsic value of co-operation never

before experienced in this section. For this we have to thank the conditions created by the war, which is in other directions so disastrous to the people's welfare. It is probable that greater progress would have been made but for the difficulty of obtaining supplies, particularly sugar. The unequal distribution of this commodity has created a serious situation for some societies, and had a hampering effect upon nearly all.

Some reduction took place in propaganda activities, which became more marked towards the end of the period under review.

With the increasing trade, there are indications that it is less easy to make even the moderate dividends typical of Southern societies. Committees have been actuated by a quite laudable desire to maintain low selling prices, but in a few cases action has been carried rather too far. Whilst members generally welcome low selling prices, there are numbers who are still prepared to resent a consequent drop in the dividend. Experience teaches that the steady maintenance of a moderate dividend is the policy most widely appreciated.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCES.

Following are particulars of the sectional conferences held during the year :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
1916.			
17th May..	London	Excess Profits Duty.	Mr. H. J. May.
23rd Sept..	London	Co-operative Insurance : Col- lective and Industrial.	Mr. S. P. Leah.
5th Oct. ..	London	Water Transport: Is it Practicable ?	Mr. C. W. Newbold.
7th Oct. ..	London	Balance Sheets.	Mr. W. T. Charter.
28th Oct. ..	London	Food Prices: A Criticism of the Food Prices Committee's Report.	Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P.
2nd Dec. ..	London	Co-operative Societies and Income Tax.	Mr. H. J. May.

At the first conference Mr. May fully explained the manner in which excess profits were ascertained, and how the returns were to be made out. The audience consisted largely of secretaries.

Mr. S. P. Leah's paper on "Insurance" was received with much interest. There were present many delegates, who asked innumerable questions. The following societies in this section have during the year joined the Collective Insurance Department :—Gillingham, Braintree, Rainham, Sittingbourne, Colchester, Saffron Waldon, Yiewsley, Southampton,

Portsea Island, Eastleigh, and Halstead. It is evident that a bold policy would bring good results even now, and much better when the war is concluded.

The next two conferences were intended for selected sections of the movement. At the first one mentioned societies situated near the sea, rivers, or canals, were specially invited to be represented. Resolutions were carried :—(1) Urging the Government to nationalise the canal system of this country ; and (2) asking the Co-operative Wholesale Society to provide a paper for a further conference. With respect to the former it is interesting to note that the Government has declared in favour of national control of all canals. The latter request was declined, and the Sectional Board now await a favourable opportunity of meeting various groups of water-side societies in preparation for a further campaign at a suitable time. The discussion of "Balance Sheets," was arranged for members of district executives with a view to encouraging them to compare the working costs of various societies in their districts. It was well attended, and Mr. Charter's lucid exposition was much appreciated.

The conference on "Food Prices" was a rousing one. Resolutions demanding Governmental control of food and milk prices were carried unanimously, and are believed to have had good effect in the proper quarter. It is clearly evident that much more agitation on this important question is necessary to arouse both the public and the Government to adequate action.

The final conference demonstrated that committees are scarcely awake to the danger of income tax being imposed upon dividends. Although some complaints had been made as to delay in leading an agitation on the question, the attendance was less than anticipated. Mr. May dealt forcibly with the position, and the resolution was unanimously carried. The Board is taking steps to organise a campaign, as is explained elsewhere in this report.

The Sectional Board attended the conference dealing with "Food Prices," held in the Memorial Hall on 20th January. They were also represented at a conference convened by the Workmen's National Housing Council, on the question of "Increased Railway Fares." Out of this conference arose a deputation to the Board of Trade, when one of the Sectional Board's representatives made a telling speech in favour of a return to former rates.

PROPAGANDA.

At the beginning of the year visits were made to a number of societies to urge the preparation of a scheme of propaganda organisation. As a consequence, some societies—notably Portsea Island, Southampton, and Tonbridge—went in for special canvassing, engaging the efficient services of Mrs. Hunt (Woking). Mrs. Hunt has also been engaged by the Board to canvass at Alton and Fordingbridge. Mr. E. L. Griffiths has canvassed at Horley (Surrey), in the Sharnbrook district near Bedford, and at Mere (Wiltshire).

The work done by Mr. Griffiths at Blandford (Dorset) has borne excellent fruit. This was referred to in last year's report, when it was stated that, with 230 members and £500 capital already secured, Bournemouth Society had promised to open a branch. The opening took place in May, with over 400 members and £1,000 share capital subscribed, now increased to 726 members and £1,400 capital, which are striking figures for a country district. The trade averages £235 per week.

Other societies have undertaken special canvassing schemes carried out by voluntary workers.

BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS.

A considerable amount of work was accomplished during the year with respect to the demarcation of boundaries between societies. Satisfactory results have been reached in many cases by a single meeting between the two committees concerned. In two or three others further meetings were necessary. Delay is most frequently caused by meetings of delegations instead of whole committees, and the Board strongly recommend the latter course being always adopted.

The following cases were satisfactorily settled:—Aylesbury and Tring, Luton and St. Albans, High Wycombe and Slough, Farnham and Aldershot, Chesham and High Wycombe, Watford and Willesden, Slough and Maidenhead, Chesham and Croyley, Chesham and Hemel Hempstead, Winchester and Farnham, Hemel Hempstead and St. Albans.

The Board regret that no agreement could be secured between Aldershot and Basingstoke, the village in dispute being Hartley Witney. Here the Basingstoke Society has opened a branch with the result that the number of members has increased from 40 to 120.

AMALGAMATIONS.

During the year amalgamations by transfer of engagements have been fairly numerous, generally with good results. Bedford took over the small society at Sharnbrook, which had got into difficult circumstances. The weekly sales have only risen slightly from £36 to £40, but 20 new members have been made. Some prejudice was aroused when the transfer took place, which it has taken time to remove. The trade is now strictly cash.

Guildford and Leatherhead. After a brave fight the Leatherhead committee decided to ask Guildford to accept a transfer of their engagements lest a prolongation of the struggle might result in loss to their members. Rapid progress is being made.

Alton (Hants.) has been absorbed by Farnham, which society at once opened a commodious shop in a more central position. The step was immediately justified. Sales jumped from £55 to £100 per week, and now average £124, on a strictly cash basis. So much fear of local tyranny had been felt in Alton previously that some members held shares in fictitious names. Now they feel the strength of the Farnham Society at their back they are reverting to their own names.

Ringwood (Hants.) has pluckily taken over the small society at Bramshaw, some nine miles distant, and hopes also to develop trade at the neighbouring town of Fordingbridge, where it has had assistance from the Union in canvassing. The trade has improved.

The members of Cliffe-at-Hoo Society (Kent), though doing a good trade and making dividends, found themselves increasingly short of capital. On application they were taken over by the Gravesend Society.

It is interesting to note the results secured in the case of the transfers which have taken place during the last two or three years, and mainly since war broke out. Since Cambridge took over Willingham, sales have advanced from £35 per week to £50, although here there is but a small scattered village, and it has been deemed advisable not to make special efforts to push trade. Since Camberley was taken over by Aldershot, sales have increased from £95 per week to £120. Croydon took over both Sutton and Epsom, with increases as follows:—Sutton, from £170 per week to £409; Epsom, from £108 per week to £190. The Addlestone Society has improved its sales at Cobham, from £45 per week to £75. At Leatherhead, now a branch of Guildford, the sales have risen from £130 per week to £204; and at Bramshaw, taken over by Ringwood as recently as October, 1916, the increase is from £19. 10s. per week to £42. 10s.

These results confirm the Board in the opinion that, generally speaking, amalgamation makes for a more rapid spread of co-operation and places the societies on a firmer foundation. They strongly recommend committees to consider, without prejudice, how far it is possible to strengthen their forces by closer union of this nature.

DISTRICT ORGANISATION.

Work in the districts has maintained its level, although some secretaries have found their activities impeded by war conditions.

Several executive committees are increased in size by the addition of delegates from societies not represented by election. The influence in their districts of these committees has increased.

Mr. G. Carter has succeeded Mr. E. King, who resigned the secretaryship of the Oxford district; and Mr. R. R. Prynne succeeds Mr. E. R. Box in the Wiltshire and Dorset district. Both the retiring gentlemen had given many years' service, and the thanks of the Board are specially due to them. The new secretaries are well known, and have good knowledge of their work.

A meeting between the Sectional Board and the chairman and secretary of each district was held on 29th July, when a programme of work was discussed, which will prove useful at the close of the war if steps are taken now to create the necessary organisation.

THE INCOME TAX MENACE.

Following the conference on "Income Tax," held on 2nd December, a circular was issued to the societies by the Sectional Board, requesting them

to adopt certain methods of propaganda, and to arrange for deputations to interview the local members of Parliament. Although special measures were taken to bring the matter to the notice of each member of the committees, the response so far has been disappointing, and indicates that much indifference exists in regard to this important question. Should such indifference continue, societies will only have themselves to thank if a measure imposing Income Tax on co-operative dividends is carried through Parliament. With Income Tax at 5s. in the £1, it needs little calculation to show how heavy a drain would take place on the savings of co-operators.

The Board is taking steps to bring together groups of neighbouring committees, in order to obtain the needful expression of co-operative opinion. One such meeting has already been held, at which a programme of work was agreed to, namely: Each committee to arrange for meetings of its members, and also of the general public in its own area; to circulate leaflets from house to house; to arrange for a sub-committee to deal with correspondence in the press; and to appoint deputations to interview trades councils, trade unions, and other working-class bodies mentioned in the circular.

The joint meeting agreed to send deputations to each member of Parliament connected with the area, record the result of the interview, and report to the Board what attitude was adopted by the member interviewed. A resolution was carried, thanking the Board for calling the committees together, and pledging the committees to carry forward the programme outlined.

The committees will be asked to consider the advisability of organising the co-operative vote, in cases where the attitude of the member of Parliament is not favourable to their requests.

The Board asks each individual committee member who reads these lines to make himself personally responsible for awakening his own committee to the serious nature of the position.

LEGAL CASE IN THE SECTION.

An attack by representatives of the Master Bakers' Associations was made upon the Anchor (London) Society, which was summoned for alleged illegal use of bakery premises. The attack failed, and five guineas costs were awarded to the Anchor Society. The total costs in addition, however, amounted to £17. 4s. On an appeal being made to the Co-operative Defence Committee, the whole amount was defrayed from the fund.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

At many conferences, the desire for direct representation of co-operators in Parliament has found voice, and to judge from these demonstrations, there can be no doubt the opinion in favour of such representation (as free

as possible from political alliance) is much stronger than it was before the war.

OBITUARY.

The death of the Rev. John Llewelyn Davies removed from our midst one whose name had long been connected with the co-operative movement. In his earlier years Mr. Davies was one of the band of Christian Socialists whose work for co-operation was so considerable.

The Sectional Board's sympathy was conveyed to his daughter, Miss M. Llewelyn Davies.

Another and more recent loss was caused by the death of Mr. Sayer, for 25 years president of the Ely Society, and for many years a member of the Cambridge District Executive. His loss will be felt keenly in the district.

SECTIONAL OFFICES.

The constant development of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's business made demands upon the available office accommodation which could only be met by the removal of the Union's Sectional Offices to another building. Though this was at first viewed with some dismay by the Board, they are glad to say that the arrangements now made at 66, Great Prescott Street, London, E., leave very little to be desired in the matter of convenience. There is a little less opportunity for contact with society representatives. This need prove no drawback if they will make a call at the new address whenever the assistance of the Union, which is always promptly rendered, is required.

LANTERN SLIDES AND LITERATURE.

Fourteen applications for lantern slides have been received, comprising 726 slides. There is a falling off in this department, traceable to the difficulty of convening meetings in these days of darkened streets.

On the other hand we are able to record an increase in literature sales, the amount being £46. 11s. The Board made a recommendation to the Central Education Committee that a cheap edition of the Apprentices' Text Book should be prepared, to encourage committees to present copies to their younger employes. The suggestion was acted upon, and it is understood that already some thousands have been sold.

GENERAL.

Despite the difficulties occasioned by the war, it can be truthfully said that co-operation is stronger than ever in this section.

The men's and women's guilds have been active. The former, being the more youthful organisation, has much lee-way to make up, but is showing plenty of vitality. The London branch of the Managers' Association has organised several useful conferences, and is strengthening its hold upon the goodwill of managers. Some educational committees have, perforce, reduced their work, but others have adopted a policy of "carry on" in face of all difficulties.

The Southern Co-operative Educational Association is now more closely associated with the Sectional Board. As a direct consequence, there arose a proposal to establish a Summer School for the Southern Section, which was well received. Its successful career is dealt with in the report of the Educational Association.

This report cannot close without a word of praise for the self-sacrificing labours of the district secretaries, who have so much voluntary work to perform. Nor can the splendid services rendered by the committees, officials, and employes of our societies be overlooked. Their duties become more onerous the longer war conditions prevail, and the fact that employes have successfully handled a greater bulk of goods during this year than ever before speaks highly for their efficiency.

In conclusion, the Sectional Board desire to express their good wishes for the prosperity of all the societies in the section. They believe no organisation can surpass co-operation in raising the status of the people, and that its influence need only be circumscribed by the disinclination of committees to take forward steps to increase the unity and power of the movement. In this spirit they look forward to an intensification of co-operative effort.

THE SOUTHERN CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT FUND.

We are glad to note that five societies have been added to the membership of this fund during the year, viz. :—Amesbury, Anchor (rejoined), Brentwood, Ringwood, and Yiewsley. The total number of societies in membership is, however, still too small to be satisfactory to those who know the good work the fund is doing in the section, and we might point out once more that the benefits which the fund can confer upon sick members are as freely available to small as to large societies.

The balance sheet for the year ending December, 1916, shows subscriptions and donations amounting to £1,084. 12s. 3d., an increase of £28. 14s. 6d. On the expenditure side there was a falling off of applications for benefits, due to the difficulties of the times, and the average cost per case was slightly higher than a year ago, owing to the increased cost of living. Grants were made to 55 societies on behalf of 291 convalescent and tuberculous cases, and to 8 societies for 11 cases of surgical aid and dentistry. The machinery for this new feature of the fund's benefits is now in good working order, and should prove valuable to societies.

Besides 197 ordinary cases of convalescence after acute illness, costing £1. 16s. 8½d. per case, 56 special cases were assisted, requiring an average grant of £4. 12s. per case. Sixteen tuberculous cases were accepted by the committee, either for treatment in sanatoria or the shelters of the fund. These cases cost an average of £8. 13s. 7½d. per case. All the four shelters possessed by the fund are in full use, three of them being loaned to members for use at their own homes, with most beneficial results to the occupiers.

In July, Edmonton Co-operative Society made a generous donation of a fully-equipped shelter as a memorial to the late Mr. H. Bassett, a greatly

respected member of the management committee of the society. Owing to war conditions it was found that the increased cost of the shelter and the difficulty of getting one built was so great that, with the concurrence of Edmonton, the committee have held over the completion of the gift for the time being.

On 29th July, the committee invited the attendance of representatives of the Midland, Western, and South-Western Funds to a round-table conference, on the general policy and action in administration of the funds. Mr. Saxton (Midland Section), Mr. Williams (Western Section), and Messrs. Bullock and Wilkins (South-Western) attended, and a pleasant and useful meeting resulted, confirming the uniformly beneficial lines upon which the work of the funds is conducted, and indicating further lines of mutual progress.

On examining the subscription list of the fund, it is to be noted with regret that every district committee has some work to do in encouraging societies to come into line with this useful institution; but that in Wiltshire, Norfolk, and Essex districts there is need for a real convalescent fund campaign.

SOUTHERN CO-OPERATIVE CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. H. Brown (chairman), Southern
Sectional Board.
Mr. M. H. Clear, Southern Sectional
Board.
Mr. S. D. Fox, Luton
Mr. Lamplugh, Stratford.

Mrs. L. A. Harrison, Woolwich.
Mr. H. C. Licence, Colchester.
Mr. J. L. Welch, Portsmouth.
Mr. A. E. T. Wilson, Edmonton.
Mrs. Turley, Croydon.
Mr B. Williams, secretary.

On 20th May, 1916, the second musical conference gave great pleasure to a large audience. Mr. E. O. Greening's paper was appropriate to the occasion. Though his proposal that each society should set aside 5 per cent of its profits practically to endow music is one that may not soon be realised, there is no doubt that a more generous attitude towards the art would bring its own reward. An efficient musical association as an auxiliary would add greatly to the attractions of the average co-operative society.

The Choir and Solo Competitions, held at the Co-operative Wholesale Society Assembly Hall, Leman Street, and Toynbee Hall, were again successful, and marked an advance over the two previous years. The number of entries were:—Senior choirs, 6; junior choirs, 18; soloists, 59. One junior choir and three soloists failed to compete. The prize winners were as follows:—Senior choirs—Luton, 1; Woolwich, 2; Swindon, 3. Junior choirs—Enfield, 1; Luton, 2; Reading, 3. Soprano solo—Miss A. Marsden (Sheerness), 1; Mrs. E. K. Dracup (Reading), 2. Contralto solo—Miss F.

Bowyer (Southampton), 1; Miss M. Blyth (Edmonton), 2. Tenor solo—Mr. B. Cooke (Luton), 1. Bass solo—Corporal Blake (Sheerness), 1.

The increased subscriptions this year—the total being £30. 7s.—are additional evidence that the Choral Association is filling a long felt want. The warmest gratitude of the association is due to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for its kindness in granting us the use of the Assembly Hall, and undertaking the catering. This entailed considerable labour upon the staff, who responded most cheerfully to the demands made upon them. Thanks are also due to the warden and committee of Toynbee Hall, who granted the free use of the Hall for the solo competitions.

It was with regret that the association received the resignation of Mr. W. H. Brown, due to his removal to Manchester. His successor is Mr. W. E. S. Cock, secretary of the London branch of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, a gentleman who has always taken a very keen interest in music.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—NORTH METROPOLITAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. H. Bate (chairman), Stratford.	Mr. J. H. Webb, Enfield Highway.
„ W. H. Betts, Willesden.	„ W. G. Payne, Chesham.
„ A. C. Burn, West London.	„ A. Wiggins, Watford.
„ J. Maton, Edmonton.	

Conferences have been held as follows:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Epping	Propaganda v. Publicity: The Relations of Committees and Managers to Idealists.	Mr. W. H. Brown.
Hendon	The Economic Results of the War, and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. J. Maton.
Edmonton (Camden Town).	Food Prices	Mrs. M. A. Gasson.

The conferences have been appreciated and well attended; the most interesting was the one held at Camden Town (Edmonton Society) on "Food

Prices," the gathering being large, and the discussion very animated. Resolutions were passed and forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Food Controller, and the President of the Board of Agriculture, and have been acknowledged.

All societies in the district report increases of trade and membership, and in many instances have been able to regulate prices in their respective localities.

The district executive, to get into closer touch with all its societies, has decided to ask each society to appoint a representative on the district committee, and an appeal for funds for this purpose has met with great success.

The educational committees, women's guilds, and men's guilds, continue to show great interest in our conferences, and have been well represented.

We were represented at the Lancaster Congress.

The following is the expenditure for the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	6	18	0
Deputations, &c.	1	8	4
Printing and Stationery	1	3	3
Postage, &c.	1	11	9
	£11	1	4

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward	8	14 7	By Epping Conference—Speakers' Expenses	0	5 6
„ Donations—			„ Grant towards Delegate's Expenses to Congress	2	0 0
Chesham Boot and Shoe	0	10 6	„ Sundries	0	5 8
Chesham Equitable	0	10 6	„ Balance in hand	11	8 5
Croxley	0	10 6			
Epping	1	1 0			
Watford	1	1 0			
Willesden and District	1	1 0			
West London	0	10 6			
	£13	19 7		£13	19 7

F. P. HAYWOOD, Secretary.

No. 2.—SOUTH METROPOLITAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. S. Whitbourne (chairman), Woking.	Mr. W. Harding, Penge.
„ J. Dickinson (secretary), Abbey Wood.	„ W. Stewart, Croydon.
„ C. J. Beese, Staines.	„ R. R. Wale, Woolwich.
„ W. J. Harris, Guildford.	„ C. Wood, Bromley and Crays.

During the year conferences have been held as follows :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Godalming	Co-operation during and after the War.	Mr. B. Williams.
Woking	Co-operators and Income Tax.....	Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P.
Addlestone	The Economic Results of the War, and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement. (Professor Hall's paper).	Mr. J. Dickinson.

The activities of the several societies in the district have been somewhat curtailed on account of war conditions; but most societies show increases in membership and trade notwithstanding.

Owing to the demands of the Government authorities, most societies have had to considerably reduce their delivery services, and it is a matter for congratulation that apparently little falling off in trade has permanently resulted.

A further amalgamation has taken place during the year, namely, that of the Leatherhead Society with Guildford, and, with this accomplished, there now disappears from this district the last of the really small societies which have had such an uncertain existence for some years.

The projected amalgamation which was mentioned in the last report, that affecting the Penge, Bromley, and Crays and Croyden societies, has now taken on a new phase, the Woolwich Society having become a party to the deliberations. With these four societies in consultation there is every prospect that, so soon as circumstances permit, new boundaries will be agreed upon. If this takes place it will mark another step forward in the unification of co-operative interests in London.

In several societies there has been a reduction of dividend in consequence of the policy adopted of selling as near cost as possible with safety, and there is no doubt that this policy on the part of co-operative societies has had a steadying influence on prices generally, and once again demonstrates the value of co-operation both in peace and war.

The following is the expenditure for the year :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	10	3	10
Deputations	0	18	10
Printing and Stationery	1	17	6
Postage	1	9	0
	£14	9	2

J. DICKINSON, Hon. Secretary.

No. 3.—KENT.

Executive Committee.

Mr. D. Flemming (chairman), Chatham.	Mr. J. Gill, Gillingham.
Mr. M. H. Clear (secretary), Sheerness.	„ J. H. Clunne, Gravesend.
Rev. C. A. Ginever, M A., Dover.	„ J. C. Harlow, Sittingbourne.
Mr. G. Wood, Sheerness Co-operative.	„ J. T. Cashman, Faversham.
„ H. J. Childs, Canterbury.	„ H. J. V. Wildash, Greenstreet.
„ W. Angear, Sheerness Economical.	„ G. Whibley, Cliffe-at-Hoo.
„ Kite, Rochester.	„ J. Norris, Ramsgate.
„ A. D. Banks, Ashford.	„ H. Hughes, Rainham.
„ G. Mitchell, Maidstone.	„ R. Werren, Tonbridge.
„ H. Riches, Dartford.	„ A. J. Curling, Barge Builders.
	„ Spillett, Walmer.

CENTENARY.

A red-letter event in the career of the district was the celebration of the centenary of the Sheerness Economical Industrial and Provident Society Limited, on the 21st November, 1916, the first of its kind, it is said, in co-operative nistory. The war and its distractions prevented any of the planned celebrations being carried out. The original rules were printed in the local pages of the *Wheatshaeaf*, for the edification of the interested members and friends; also a reproduction of three bread tokens—one gallon, half-gallon, and a quart. The society started operations on the ready-money basis by use of bread tokens, an original conception of the pioneers; they were in use for upwards of 50 years. Why, or when dropped, cannot be traced, but ever regretted. A weekly credit system was allowed. To revert back and revive cash trading, and to resuscitate the desires, purpose, and spirit of the pioneers, the present executive put the bread, flour, and corn trade upon a ready-money basis early in December, 1916.

The writing up of the history of the society is in the hands of Mr. W. H. Brown, and will appear when restrictions on paper and labour difficulties have been removed and the war ceases.

AMALGAMATION.

The army demands led up to extreme staff difficulties at Cliffe-at-Hoo Society. The Co-operative Wholesale Society auditor (Mr. A. E. Newman) advised, from internal knowledge and for the welfare of the movement as a whole, amalgamation with Gravesend Society, which was approached, and without the least trouble whatever a fusion of the two societies took place.

It is freely voiced and advocated—one society for the county of Kent.

INSURANCE.

Three societies during the year adopted the Collective Life Assurance, viz., Gillingham, Rainham, and Sittingbourne; to this list can be added Canterbury. An all too small a total for dealing with this unique form of

assurance. Concentrated effort upon those outside will have to be made to induce them to come into line.

OBITUARY.

Canterbury Society's representative, Mr. H. J. Childs, passed away after undergoing an operation. His illness was brief; he was young in co-operative work, but imbued with high hopes and vast possibilities. The trade union movement some years ago, however, had enlisted him for active advocacy and membership. Even his short association with the district executive and work marked him out as a man of promise; death's claim was all too early for the movement to reap the advantage of his natural gifts.

CONVALESCENCE.

The Southern Co-operative Convalescent Fund. From a district standpoint, Kent leads in the section; 15 distributive societies of the 20 are members of some time standing, and there is no reason to think but that very little will induce those outside affiliation to come into the fold and thus form a solid body in this phase of co-operative effort.

EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

The Faversham Parliamentary division embraces Faversham, Greenstreet, Sittingbourne, Rainham, and Sheerness societies. These have to be in touch, and are united in action. They have appointed a small sub-committee from each, who have met several times and agreed that each should, at their business meetings, quarterly and half-yearly, get their members to pass condemning resolutions, and forward the same on to the sitting M.P.'s and Cabinet Ministers. They also pooled the cost of newspaper advertisements in every paper in circulation in their area. This was done through the medium of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's publicity department. Telling attractive advertisements were before the public for weeks. The next stage is now for a formidable deputation to await upon their M.P.

WATER TRANSIT.

The pressing claims for water transit were brought prominently to the front by reasons of the war. The Medway Barge Builders and Carriers saw that their special work could be done better and more efficiently by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, who were approached with a view to absorption. Negotiations are still pending, and it is earnestly hoped that the desires of progressive minds will be realised.

REVIEW.

General increases in trade, membership, and capital are recorded on every hand. Wherever possible active educational propaganda is being carried out as advocated by the district committee.

1916 CONFERENCES.

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Maidstone	Milk Supply Problem	Mr. E. Jackson, Manager, C.W.S. Agricultural Department.
Sittingbourne ..	Excess Profits Tax.....	Mr. A. E. Newman, C.W.S. Audit Depart- ment.
Gillingham	Co-operative Dividends and the Future Policy respecting same.	Mr. John Gill, Presi- dent of Gillingham Co-operative Society.

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Balance, December, 1915	26 12 7	By Committee Meetings	5 19 6
„ Subscriptions	62 13 11	„ Postage, 'Phone and Wires	3 0 3
		„ Printing and Stationery.....	2 0 0
		„ Advisory Work	18 12 5
		„ Propaganda and Conferences....	23 17 9
		„ Balance	35 16 7
Andited— W. R. ANGEAR.			
	£89 6 6		£89 6 6

MARK H. CLEAR, Secretary.

No. 4.—SUSSEX.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Scrace (chairman), Tunbridge Wells.	Mr. W. Gatland, Crawley.
„ H. C. Kille (secretary), Eastbourne.	„ W. Dallaway, Brighton.
„ Mr. L. Razzell, Reigate.	„ B. H. Baker, Newhaven.
„ G. Daughtry, Arundel.	„ Atkins, Lewes.

The following conferences were held during the year:—

Society	Subject.	Introduced by
Eastbourne.....	Joint Conference with the District Committee of Women's Guild— Sources of Supply and Increased Trade.	Mrs. Gasson.
Brighton	Co-operation during and after the War.	Mr. B. Williams.
Newhaven	The Economic Results of the War, and their Effect on the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. A. Hainsworth.
Dorking	Questions—Joint Conference with the Surrey Conference Association.	Mr. Newbold.
Worthing	Income Tax.....	Mr. Foulger.

Real live subjects have been taken at the conferences, and the discussion has been of a good educational character. There were good attendances. Two were joint conferences, one with the Women's Guild (Sussex district) and the other with the Surrey Conference Association.

We are pleased to report that the nine societies comprising our district are increasing in trade and membership.

We have this year been directly represented at Congress.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings..	13	14	9
Sectional Conferences	3	7	0
Propaganda	0	15	7
Printing	1	9	0
Postage	1	0	3
Stationery	0	1	8
	£20	8	3

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand	17	9	7	By Hire of Hall—Eastbourne	0	10	0
„ Subscriptions	9	5	0	„ Printing	0	10	0
				„ Special Sectional Conference for District—Executive Fares and Expenses	5	3	4
				„ Special Conference—Worthing Expenses	1	17	4½
				„ Delegate to Congress	2	17	0
				„ Expenses of Representation from Societies not represented on District Executive	1	16	3½
				„ Donation to Surrey Conference Association	0	2	6
				„ Stationery and Attache Case	1	0	0
				„ Balance	12	18	1
	£26	14	7		£26	14	7

H. C. KILLE, Hon. Secretary.

No. 5.—HANTS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. Dudman (chairman), Basing-	Mr. E. Ruddock, Eastleigh.
stoke.	„ W. Hutchings, Winchester.
„ H. Sanders, Farnham.	„ R. Hibberd, Parkstone.
„ S. Bowerman, Portsmouth.	„ E. Alexander, Southampton.

Conferences held during the year :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Farnham.....	How to Increase Trade (Mrs. Cottrell's paper).	Mrs. Allen.
Petersfield	Relationship of C.W.S. to Retail Societies.	Mr. J. H. Mihell.
Eastleigh	Child Labour after the War.	Mr. F. B. Smith.
Shanklin	Co-operation during and after the War.	Mr. B. Williams.
Bournemouth ...	Income Tax and Food Prices.	Messrs. Salmon and Williams.

All the conferences have been well attended, and useful discussions followed the introduction of the various subjects.

At Bournemouth, where the conference was of a special character, and was attended by representatives from trades unions, resolutions on the matters discussed were adopted, and copies forwarded to the local M.P.'s and to the heads of Government departments.

The trade of all the societies in the district continues to increase, and in some cases very rapidly.

One small society (Alton) has been taken over by Farnham Society, and under this new arrangement trade has revived in a remarkable manner.

The educational work of the district has been vigorously carried on by the local educational committees.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society Collective Life Assurance is attracting considerable attention, and several societies in the district have adopted it.

The action of some private traders during the war has had the effect of drawing favourable attention to the co-operative method of trading, with results which cannot fail to be beneficial to all.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	20	19	2
Deputations	10	7	2
Printing, Stationery, and Postage	5	1	9
	£36	8	1

J. L. WELCH, Hon. Secretary.

NO. 6.—WILTS. AND DORSET.

Executive Committee.

Mr. A. G. England (chairman), Weymouth.	Mr. W. J. Dunning, Trowbridge.
„ R. R. Prynne (hon. sec.), Wilton.	„ H. J. Poolman, Warminster.
„ A. E. Angell, Bradford-on-Avon.	„ S. W. Shinner, Chippenham.
„ C. J. Cane, Salisbury.	„ D. G. Sloacombe, Devizes.

We have held four conferences during the year, as follow:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Wilton	The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices. (Prof. Hall's Paper.)	Mr. W. H. Brown.
Devizes	Some Problems for Present Day Co-operators.	Mr. A. G. England.
Trowbridge ...	The Co-operative Movement: Its Duty in Regard to Prices and Dividends.	Mr. H. Goodhind.
Salisbury ..	Rules and Finances of the Wilts. and Dorset District Association.	Mr. R. R. Prynne.

The first conference, held at Wilton in February, was well attended, and the discussion proved stimulating both to the society and the district.

At the second conference, at Devizes, Mr. A. G. England read a short paper on "Some Problems for Present Day Co-operators." The discussion centred around the employes' position in the movement, and was interesting and helpful.

The third conference, at Trowbridge, was remarkable for an original paper by Mr. Goodhind. The writer advocated a policy of selling at cost price plus expenses, thus reducing the dividend to the vanishing point, and believed that share capital could be attracted to the societies in the form of cash contributions in lieu of accumulated dividends.

It was agreed at this conference that a testimonial fund be raised for Mr. E. R. Box, hon. district secretary for over 20 years. This was carried through at a later date, the sum of ten guineas being presented to him, which he acknowledged in an appreciative letter of thanks.

The fourth conference, at Salisbury, discussed the suggested rules for the district in conjunction with a paper prepared by the new secretary, Mr. R. R. Prynne. The writer advocated the payment by societies of 1d. per member towards a district fund which should pay travelling expenses of delegates to conferences, the balance to form a propaganda fund. The absence of propaganda in the two counties has resulted in the formation of small agricultural societies, whose frequent failures bring discredit on the movement. The policy of the association should be to invite them to join the

Union. The rules were approved by the conference and referred to the societies for discussion.

The executive have held four meetings preceding the quarterly conferences, and also two interim meetings.

The question of propaganda has been raised at these meetings. When circumstances are more normal, the association hope to take an active share in explaining and introducing the benefits of our movement to several places in the counties which are at present without a store.

The societies in the district nearly all record progress in trade and membership, though the difficulties with staff and supplies have been far greater in this neighbourhood than in most, owing to its proximity to military areas. Wilton Society sustained serious losses through the defalcation of their late secretary. The members, however, held well together, and the society has recovered at a very rapid rate; in fact, the co-operative spirit is in evidence more than ever before.

There is every reason to believe that co-operative activity in this district will be much greater in the near future.

The expenditure for the year is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	17	17	2
Conferences	8	7	9
Deputations	2	4	8
Printing	2	11	6
Postage	1	7	0
	£32	8	1

DISTRICT FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1916.

Receipts.			Expenditure.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 11th July, from Mr. Box	7	16	8	By Secretary's bag	0	16	0
Societies' Subscriptions	8	5	0	„ Minute books, &c. . .	0	13	11
				„ Delegation to Hants. Conference.	0	10	6
				„ Testimonial expenses	0	2	6
				„ Postage	0	2	0
				„ Cash in hand.....	13	16	9
	£16	1	8		£16	1	8

R. R. PRYNNE, Hon. Secretary.

No. 7.—OXFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. T. Ramsey (chairman), Oxford.
 „ F. R. Cook, Sunningdale.
 „ A. E. Perkins, Windsor.
 „ L. H. Taffs, Slough.

Mr. C. E. Taylor, Swindon.
 „ E. White, High Wycombe.
 „ H. Wooldridge, Reading.
 „ G. Carter (hon. sec.), Oxford.

The past year has been a most anxious one for societies, and it is gratifying that on the whole the movement has proved its worth to the people. Both

trade and membership have increased, and larger cash takings are not entirely attributable to the excessive high prices for commodities.

The "last call" has come to many of our late employés, and many hundreds of others are doing their duty nobly for country and liberty.

The wider introduction of female labour has given much satisfaction, and will doubtless lead to further developments in the movement.

In some localities dissatisfaction has been felt by societies at the treatment meted out to them by the tribunals; but the lesson is obvious: co-operators must in the future take their proper share in the work of local and national government.

One of the most interesting events of the year was the celebration of the jubilee of Banbury Society, when an X-ray apparatus was presented to the local hospital, in addition to other donations.

Soldiers billeted in many of the towns have put to the test the co-operative bakeries, and in all cases satisfaction has been given.

The Excess Profits Tax has affected some societies, while others have avoided it by keeping prices as low as possible.

The proposal of the private traders to tax co-operative dividends has been considered at many meetings, and steps are being taken to resist the imposition. It is satisfactory to record that members' debts, which had given some anxiety in the past, have been reduced. One society is trying the experiment of giving increased bonus for ready money, while another has adopted strictly cash trading.

Educational work has been well maintained, and some societies have afforded facilities for employés to attend classes in working hours.

Five district conferences have been held, and each has been fairly well attended:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Chipping Norton.	Finance and the War (Mr. Goodwin's Paper.)	Mr. M. Clear.
Slough	Sources of Supply and Increased Trade. (Mrs. Cottrell's Paper.)	Mrs. Hood.
Swindon	Trade Unions and C.W.S. Banking.	Mr. T. G. Davies.
Reading	Economic Results of the War..... (Prof. Hall's Paper.)	Mr. H. Wooldridge.
Oxford	Educational Work of the Co- operative Movement.	Mr. W. J. Foster.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	7	9	10
Deputations	5	2	8
Printing	0	14	6
Postage and Stationery	0	17	8
	£14	4	8

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance, 31st December, 1915 ..	15	10	10	By Congress Expenses	5	10	0
„ Subscriptions	12	3	0	„ Donation	1	1	0
				„ Committee Meetings (fares only) ..	3	3	4
				„ Sectional Conference	2	15	10
				„ Printing	0	11	4
				„ Postage and stationery	0	10	2
				„ Balance, 31st December, 1916	14	2	2
	£27	13	10		£27	13	10

GEORGE CARTER, Hon. Secretary.

No. 8.—CAMBRIDGE.

Executive Committee.

Mr. F. Barnard (chairman), Cambridge.	Mr. F. R. Simmons, Saffron Walden.
„ W. Resbury (hon. sec.), Sawston.	„ C. Martin, Bishop's Stortford.
„ G. B. Poppy, Newmarket.	„ F. G. P. Radclyffe, Garden City
„ J. F. Cole, Letchworth.	Press, Letchworth.

Conferences have been held during the year as under :—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Cambridge	The Relation between Idealists and Practical Persons.	Mr. W. H. Brown.
Ely	Congress Report	Mr. W. Resbury.
Saffron Walden .	The Economic Results of the War and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. Foulger.

We regret that we have to record the death of Mr. H. Sayer, who for 22 years held a seat on the Cambridge District Executive.

The attendance at these conferences has kept up well. Delegates appreciate the opportunity of meeting together and discussing subjects that are prominent before us just now.

The executive has met the committees of weak societies, and conferred with them. We feel sure that in this way good work has been done.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings	14	13	4
Postage	0	6	0
Conferences in London	4	18	11
Printing and Stationery	0	17	11

£20 16 2

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward	22	11 5	By Stationery	0	1 0
„ Subscriptions	9	3 0	„ Congress Delegate	4	10 0
„ Bank Dividend and Interest	0	7 2	„ Balance at Bank	26	8 2
			„ „ in Secretary's hands	1	2 5
	£32	1 7		£32	1 7

W. RESBURY, Hon. Secretary.

No. 9.—NORFOLK.

Executive Committee.

Mr. A. G. Spencér (chairman), Thetford.	Mr. T. A. Furbank, King's Lynn.
„ T. S. Reeve (hon. sec.), Norwich.	„ H. J. Yates, Fakenham.
„ G. Mayes, Wymondham.	„ P. W. Rayment, Lowestoft.
„ A. J. Hagg, Norwich.	„ W. Speare, Beccles.

The following conferences have been held during the year :—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Introduced by
May 27, 1916.	Wymondham	Co-operation during and after the War.	Mr. B. Williams, paper and reader.
Sept. 2, 1916.	Great Yarmouth	The Economic Results of the War and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement.	Prof. Hall's paper—Mr. Thos. S. Reeve, reader.
Feb. 3, 1917.	Norwich	Food Prices	Mrs. Gasson.

A resolution was carried at the Great Yarmouth conference requesting the Union to formulate a national policy to deal with after-the-war problems.

Resolutions were carried at the Norwich conference urging the Government to commandeer shipping sufficient to import foodstuffs, to regulate and control supplies, and secure an equitable distribution to all classes of the community; also to prevent further depletion of labour upon the land.

Copies of resolutions were sent to each Government department concerned, and to the local M.P.'s.

A resolution urging co-operative societies to apply for the use of land for cultivation, was also carried.

Although no general scheme of propaganda, as outlined in the papers by Mr. B. Williams and Professor Hall, has been carried on, separate efforts are being made to achieve some of the objects. King's Lynn Society has formed a special committee to consider the proposals of Professor Hall; and Norwich Society has formed a special propaganda committee for extending membership and increasing trade.

Societies on the coast have felt the war strain severely, with visiting and fishing restricted, but have worked hard to make the best of their difficulties, and have increased their membership. Yarmouth, especially, has suffered.

Lowestoft has been fortunate in making up for lost trade by contracts for Government, and has experience of feeding soldiers in large numbers.

Cromer has started a penny bank.

Changes of management have taken place at Sheringham and Melton Constable.

Beebles has made good returns, and shows a high rate of purchases per member.

The price of bread has been kept low in Norwich; the highest price reached is 4½d. per 2 lbs.; the result is large increases in the bread sales.

The expenditure for the year is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Sectional Conferences	7	14	7
Executive Meetings	9	13	5
Printing and Stationery.....	2	3	7
Postage and Telegrams	1	12	5
	£21	4	0

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	8	8	7	By Delegates Rail Fares & Expenses	1	6	4
„ Subscriptions	6	15	0	„ Balance in hand	13	17	3
	£15	8	7		£15	3	7

THOS. S. REEVE, Hon. Secretary.

No. 10.—ESSEX AND SUFFOLK.

Executive Committee.

Mr. B. S. Wood (chairman), Braintree.	Mr. W. Wade, Stowmarket.
„ W. J. Salmon (hon. sec.), Colchester.	„ Chas. Clift, Chelmsford.
„ S. Foulger, Ipswich.	„ J. F. X. Thoburn, Leiston.
„ G. Ryder, Colchester.	

During Congress year we have held four conferences, viz.:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Colchester ..	Mr. F. Hall's paper—Co-operative Control of Raw Material.	Mr. Fowler.
Maldon	Mr. B. Williams's paper—Co-operation during and after the War.	Mr. B. Williams.
Ipswich	Mr. Foster's paper—Value of Co-operative Education.	Mr. Foster.
Stowmarket.	Income Tax	Mr. Salmon.

At each meeting the attendance and interest have been well maintained. At Colchester a considerable number of representatives from trade unions and kindred organisations attended and evinced a keen interest in Mr. Hall's arguments. At Malden, Mr. Williams demonstrated the need for increased determination to push forward in our various activities, and to strive for increased efficiency. The third conference was held on the Ipswich Society's Bentley Farm, and proved exceedingly interesting, Mr. Pulham (president, Ipswich Society) giving some valuable particulars of their experiences of farming, and Mr. Foster's paper evoked a considerable amount of enthusiasm in connection with the educational side of the movement. At Stowmarket, a useful discussion was obtained, and the official resolution unanimously adopted.

Referring to the general position of the movement, there is nothing special to report. All societies have been doing an increased trade under ever-increasing difficulties.

Committees have had an anxious time, but looking back we cannot but feel grateful to the respective managers, secretaries, and their general staffs for the splendid services they have rendered, without which the results achieved would have been impossible.

Since we issued our last report, the esteemed secretary of the Maldon Society has passed away. Mr W. Cobbold was a man of sterling worth, and his services have been of considerable value to the society he served so faithfully for many years.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Balance	6 12 6	By Delegation—Leicester Congress..	3 5 0
„ Subscriptions	18 14 6	„ „ Lancaster „ ..	4 11 6
		„ Deputations	4 0 8
		„ Printing	2 12 0
		„ Grant to late Mr. G. Barker	1 0 0
		„ Conference Expenses.....	1 0 0
		„ Stationery, Postage, &c.	1 3 0
		„ Balance in hand	7 14 10
	<u>£25 7 0</u>		<u>£25 7 0</u>

W. J. SALMON, Hon. Secretary.

No. 11.—BEDS. AND BUCKS.

Executive Committee.

Mr. W. H. Barton (chairman), Luton.	Mr. Thos. Walker, Aylesbury.
„ C. T. Goldsmith (hon. secretary), Bedford.	„ W. H. Bond, St. Albans.
„ J. Bagnall, Tring.	„ J. H. Goodwin, Bletchley.
„ P. Brightman, Silsoe.	„ D. A. Jones, Bedford.
„ J. Day, Berkhamsted.	„ W. J. Field, Olney.
„ H. Dolling, Wolverton.	„ R. W. Streets, Hemel Hempstead.
„ W. Taylor, Stony Stratford.	„ Viccars, Swanbourne.
	„ W. H. Wood, Newport Pagnell.

Our fourth year has been marked by further hopeful developments of the collective spirit, as focussed in the district executive and its activities among our societies. In some measure, no doubt, as a result of the scheme adopted last year for extended representation on the district committee so that each society now has its own report, the committee is in closer contact with all our societies, and committees evince a growing inclination to look to the district for help, direction, and advice, which is always most ungrudgingly given. Our smaller village societies have frequently expressed their indebtedness for timely advice and help, and assistance in propaganda.

The extension of van deliveries by our town societies in the rural parts has made the question of boundaries acute in several instances, but the good sense and co-operative feeling of the committees concerned has enabled a satisfactory solution to be reached in each case. At the conference between Aylesbury and Tring, the district was represented by its chairman; and at that between Luton and St. Albans, when the division of Harpenden was under review, the secretary was the district representative. Other committees have met and arranged boundaries to their mutual satisfaction, and all cause for future friction has been removed.

When the Sectional Board submitted their proposals for an energetic Income Tax protest campaign, the district executive at once decided to do all in their power to encourage societies to carry out the Board's comprehensive programme. Extremely successful public meetings, at which resolutions of protest were passed unanimously, have been held at Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Silsoe, and other places. At the moment of writing, in consultation with the Sectional Board, the executive is arranging three group conferences, when the full committees of about four adjacent societies in each case will meet representatives of the Board and the district chairman and secretary, to discuss the best means of giving effect to the Board's proposals.

The general work of the committee, including the quarterly conferences, has been well maintained. The conferences have been—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Newport Pagnell.	Professor Hall's Paper: The Co-operative Control of Raw Materials and Prices.	Mr. C. T. Goldsmith.
Hemel Hempstead	The Relations between Idealists and Practical Persons.	Mr. W. H. Brown.
Stony Stratford .	Co-operation During and After the War. (Mr. B. Williams' Paper.)	Mrs. Gasson.
Bedford	Special Conference on Food Prices.	Mrs. Gasson.
Luton	The Value of the Educational Work of the Co-operative Movement.	Mr. W. J. Foster.

The conferences have been admirably attended, especially when the claims of war work and reduced railway facilities are remembered. All have had a distinct educational value in forming sound co-operative opinion among the leaders of our local societies. Trade, generally, continues on the up grade, especially in the larger towns. Sharnbrook Society, finding the incubus of debts and want of depreciation in the past too much for it in war-time difficulties, applied to the Bedford Society, and was taken over on a valuation. Since Bedford took over the premises as a branch, trade and membership have increased.

The expenditure for the year has been—

	£	s.	d.
Committee Meetings and Conferences	17	1	11
Deputations	11	10	3
Printing	1	6	9
Postage and Stationery	1	9	2
	<hr/>		
	£31	8	1

SPECIAL DISTRICT FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance 31st Jan., 1916	8	7	8	By Committee Meetings	2	8	9
„ Subscriptions	7	8	6	„ Visitation Expenses	0	6	1
				„ Sharnbrook "Wheatheaf"	0	15	0
				„ Postage	0	1	6
				„ Balance in hand	12	4	4
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£15	15	9		£15	15	9

C. T. GOLDSMITH, Hon. Secretary.

SOUTHERN CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

Executive Council.

Mr. E. J. Bull (president), Southern District Council (A.U.C.E.).	Mr. F. G. Harrison, Walworth Co-operative Guild.
Mr. W. J. Foster (hon. secretary), Co-operative Bass Dressers.	Miss J. P. Madams, Co-operative Brotherhood Trust.
„ B. Williams (secretary).	Mrs. Tucker, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.
Miss E. E. M. Allen, Croydon.	„ Vigis, Stratford.
Mr. G. Carter, Oxford.	Miss C. Webb, Wimbledon.
„ J. J. Dent, Working Men's College.	Mr. A. E. T. Wilson, Edmonton.

Representing the Sectional Board: Messrs. R. Rowsell and W. J. Salmon.

In common with all other educational organisations, we have found it difficult to carry on our work, but the difficulties have only acted as a spur to greater efforts and the past year will stand out as a memorable one in the history of educational activity in this section.

For many years it has been our pleasing duty to record, from year to year, the growth and development of educational work in this section. At times the growth has been slow and the development scarcely discernible, but those who are privileged to be most closely connected with the work were conscious of its constant extension. This year has given unmistakable evidence of the great and widespread interest in educational work, not only by societies as such, but also by individual members of societies; for this year we have had our first summer school, held at the Working Men's College, London, during the first weeks of September.

In this gathering, which was most successful, we saw the result of the quiet, unobtrusive work of past years, and also had a foretaste of the great things that may yet be attained.

In view of the restricted lighting arrangements in London, and the increased fares and lack of travelling facilities, the Council decided to hold three conferences only, instead of four as usual.

The first, the annual meeting of the association, was held on 10th July, when, after the business of the annual meeting had been disposed of, Mr. B. Williams read Mr. W. R. Rae's paper on the "Educational Programme," in which the whole organisation, methods and aims of co-operative education are reviewed, and the very pertinent question "What do we seek to hand over to posterity?" was put.

The second conference was held on 18th November, when Dr. Lionel Tayler, M.A., read a paper entitled "A Plea for an Industrial Co-operative Ideal." In this paper Dr. Tayler endeavoured to point out the difference between co-operation and mutual aid. Co-operation, said Dr. Tayler, stands for a reconciliation of conflicting interests, mutual aid a combination for the protection of class interests.

Comparing the "struggle" principle with the principle of co-operation, he said: "You are aiming for a new kind of civilisation in which competition and struggle is to be swept away, in which life is to be organised for the benefit of all, through all, for all. You are going to raise the stature of manhood and womanhood, and to ask for big ideals. May you be worthy to succeed."

The third conference was held on 8th March, when Mr. Ralph Hibberd (secretary, Parkstone and Bournemouth Society) gave an address on "Social Service and Co-operation," in the course of which he advocated the democratic control of industry, curtailing the power of capital, limitation of interest, the abolition of "profit," and the training of thousands of people in collective methods for mutual welfare.

The discussions following the papers at these conferences have been well maintained, and a keen interest in the subjects evinced.

In addition to these sectional conferences, district conferences have been arranged in connection with the Essex and Suffolk District, at Ipswich, 30th September, 1916; Oxford District, at Oxford, 4th November, 1916; Beds. and Bucks. District, at Luton, 27th January, 1917.

At these conferences a paper was read by Mr. W. J. Foster, on "The Value of the Educational Work of the Co-operative Movement." This paper, which was written at the request of the Council, emphasises (a) the importance of the movement having a body of thoroughly trained efficient employés, and (b) the necessity for separate committees for educational work.

These conferences have been well attended, and it is hoped that when normal conditions again prevail that the suggestions contained in the paper will be put into practice.

CLASS WORK.—The following classes have been held in the section during the past session:—

JUNIOR CLASSES IN "CO-OPERATION."—Bedford, Bromley and Crays, Gillingham, Hemel Hempstead, Parkstone and Bournemouth (eight classes), Royal Arsenal (six classes), and Slough.

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.—Bromley and Crays and Hemel Hempstead.

"CO-OPERATION"—ADULT.—Edmonton (three classes), Royal Arsenal (three classes).

"INDUSTRIAL HISTORY."—West London, Royal Arsenal (four classes).

"CITIZENSHIP."—Edmonton.

"BOOKKEEPING."—Cambridge, Harwich and Dovercourt, London Anchor, and Wolverton.

CLASSES FOR WOMEN CO-OPERATORS (under the direct auspices of the Central Education Committee).—Enfield Wash, Penge, Portsmouth, West London, Woking, and Farnborough.

These classes have been most successful and we confidently anticipate a great extension next session.

The association has been represented on the Central Education Committee by Miss J. P. Madams, and the Sectional Board has been represented on this Council by Messrs. Salmon and Rowsell. The constant interchange of ideas and opinions thus rendered possible has done much to help forward our work.

E. J. BULL, President.

B. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

(7) SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

The Board has held nine meetings during the year, the attendances being as follows :—

	No. of Attendances Possible.	No. of Attendances Made.
Mr. R. Andrews	9	6
Mr. J. T. Davis	9	9
Mr. J. Marks	9	8
Mr. R. Pearce (secretary)	9	9
Rev. G. A. Ramsay.....	9	9
Mr. W. H. Watkins (chairman)	9	9
Mr. A. Bullock (hon. member).....	9	—
Mr. R. R. Prynne „	9	1
Mr. C. Vaughan „	9	1

At the first meeting held in July, 1916, the following appointments were made :—

Chairman : Mr. W. H. Watkins. *Treasurer* : Mr. J. Marks.

Secretary : Mr. R. Pearce.

Representatives to the—

United Board and Office Committee Mr. W. H. Watkins.

Central Educational Committee and South-Western Educational

Committee Association Rev. G. A. Ramsay.

Representatives to the District Associations—

Cornwall Mr. J. T. Davis.

Devon Rev. G. A. Ramsay.

Somerset Mr. R. Andrews.

During the year there has been marked activity in each district of the section. Three aims have characterised the efforts of the Board and the district associations, viz., consolidation, amalgamation, and extension, and the propaganda work necessary for obtaining these has been energetically carried on.

From all parts of the section the reports of the societies indicate increased trade and membership, and on the whole strengthened positions. Cornwall and Somerset in particular have entered on new ground in their propaganda work. In the former district branches have been opened at Hayle and Bugle by the Penzance and St. Austell societies respectively. In Somerset, Radstock has added two new branches; whilst in Devon, Exeter has been in negotiations with Honiton, with the view to taking over that society,

as it did others previously. At present this matter is in abeyance. South Molton will open a store at Barnstaple, at the earliest moment, to accommodate the hundred persons in that town associated with the movement. Plymouth has made great progress, and opened new branches for different departments of trade.

The close proximity of societies in some areas is hindering their progress, and has brought the question of amalgamation into prominence. Following discussions on this subject, schemes are about to be prepared for consideration by the societies, whereby it is hoped that co-operative principles and trade may be more effectively promulgated and organised. This is being suggested not only for retail trade, but also for purposes of production. Further careful consideration will be given to this matter, whilst the facts of unnecessary limitations and the possibility of attacks by enemies will doubtless result in the breaking down of previous prejudices due to isolated existence.

Continued difficulties have prevented the formation of salesmen's classes at the usual centres, but the education of the juniors does not appear to have been neglected, and it is believed that the average efficiency has been maintained. The summer school at Plymouth was a fine success, and it is gratifying to learn that it may become permanent. If so, it will serve a long felt need in the section.

The joint meetings of the Sectional Board with the district executives have enabled schemes of work to be planned and arranged, from which good results have already accrued. Fuller results will be realised during the coming year, when the proposed canvassers in Somerset and the organiser and propagandist in Devon have been appointed.

Two sectional conferences have been held, one at Exeter, the other at Saltash, and at each a comprehensive resolution accepting the principles of amalgamation of societies wherever practicable was adopted.

Although there has been a great depletion of staffs by managers, assistants, delivery men, and other employes having had to join the colours, there has been determined energy on the part of those remaining behind to meet and encourage the increasing trade.

It is noted with pleasure that the differences between the Plymouth Society and its employes have been amicably and satisfactorily settled.

W. H. WATKINS, Chairman.

R. PEARCE, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—BRISTOL AND SOMERSET.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. Westbury (president).
 „ J. Marks, J.P. (treasurer).
 „ C. A. Connolly (secretary).
 „ F. Mills, Bristol.
 „ W. Merrick, Bristol.
 Mrs. Treble, Bristol.
 Mr. S. J. Plummer, Bridgwater.
 „ W. C. Lock, Bruton.
 „ T. W. Hill, Bristol Printers.
 „ W. Plummer, Coleford.
 „ F. Ackland, Frome.
 „ H. G. Hooper, Frampton.
 „ G. Brown, Oakhill.
 „ W. Gillingham, Portishead.
 Rev. G. A. Ramsay, Radstock.
 Mr. G. Bryant, Radstock.
 „ T. Barter, Radstock.
 „ W. J. Hodges, Taunton.
 „ G. Rex, Taunton.

Mr. C. Maynard, Templecombe.
 „ R. G. Naish, Twerton.
 „ C. Powell, Twerton.
 „ A. V. Treasure, Weston.
 Mrs. Pierce, Yeovil.
 Mr. T. Foyle, Yeovil.
 „ W. B. Slade, Bristol Educational.
 „ H. E. Hawkins, Bridgwater Educ'l.
 „ W. Brown, Weston Educational.
 „ E. G. Haskins, Twerton Educat'n'l.
 Mrs. Joy, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Hunt, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Crease, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Greenland, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Britton, Bristol Guilds.
 „ Squire, Bridgwater Guild.
 „ Bacon, Weston Guild.
 „ Hulse, Twerton Guild.
 „ Duckworth, Yeovil Guild.

Sub-executive Committee: Messrs. Foyle, Naish, Rev. Ramsay, Rex,
 Treasure, and officers.

Sectional Board Representative: Mr. R. Andrews.

Representative on S.W.E.A.: Mr. W. Brown.

Owing to the continuance of the world war, with all its attendant evils, the past year has been one of extreme difficulty and anxiety to our movement, and it is therefore all the more gratifying to your committee to be able to congratulate you upon the sound and vigorous condition of the societies in the district.

The larger turnover, due to enhanced prices, is liable to create an impression of phenomenal progress, but, even after making due allowance for this, we can truly say that our societies are decidedly on the upgrade.

The most convincing proof of this is furnished by the fact that we have increased our membership by 3,122, bringing the total to 47,788.

Share capital has reached the high figure of £380,400, being £42,977 more than last year. Over £6,000 has been placed to reserve, and for the first time our sales have exceeded £1,000,000.

On the other hand the rate of profit per £1 of sales has fallen considerably—a hard fact which proves conclusively that our societies cannot be accused of “profiteering.”

Unfortunately the grants to education show an actual decrease, being £1,034 as against £1,051, whereas it should have been at least £1,317.

This reduction is all the more regrettable as there never was a greater need for education than at the present time. The attacks of powerful outside organisations, and the certainty of a large number of after-the-war problems arising, should convince even the most casual co-operator of the absolute necessity of educating their fellow-members so that they may be a source of solid strength to the movement in time of trial.

The year has also been one of exceptional activity. We have held six sub executive and four executive meetings, besides four conferences. Again persistent efforts have been made to link up the unaffiliated societies, and we are pleased to report that Minehead Society is now included in our ranks.

District Propaganda, Excess Profits Duty, the Unification of District Rules, and many other matters of a more or less routine character, have been given close attention by your committee. We have sent forward certain suggestions with a view to rendering the proposed Model Rules adaptable to our local circumstances, and hope to report progress later.

Our special propaganda has been carried out on a most extensive scale—Minehead, Combswich, Westonzoyland, Weston-super-Mare, Worle, Clevedon, Portishead, Frampton Cotterell, Yate, Wincanton, Bruton, Frome and district, Templecombe, Henstridge, and other areas have been visited by canvassers appointed by the association, and in nearly every case meetings were held. There were naturally a few failures, but nevertheless the work has been of real service, for quite apart from the attendance at the meetings, the judicious house to house distribution of thousands of leaflets, and the quiet talks with the people, will certainly have good effect in the future, especially if followed up by local effort.

Of the four conferences, the first was held at Bristol in January. The report and balance sheet were dealt with, officers elected, and arrangements made for the selection of district candidates for the Sectional Board.

At the second, held at Bruton in April, Mr. Connolly's paper on "Female Labour" was the subject of a particularly keen discussion.

The July conference at Radstock was favoured by the attendance of Mr. E. Jackson (Co-operative Wholesale Society Agricultural Department), who opened a very useful discussion on "Co-operators and the Milk Supply"; while at Bridgwater, in October, Councillor H. Westbury dealt in a remarkably lucid manner with the vexed question of "Co-operators and the Income Tax."

All our conferences were well attended, and of a thoroughly representative character, and in closing our report we wish to tender our sincere thanks to those societies under whose auspices our meetings were held, and to all who contributed to their success.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.		Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	75	18	10		By Conferences—			
" Subscriptions from Societies	105	5	2		Bristol	12	13	1
" Educational Committees	3	8	0		Bruton	16	12	0
" Women's Guilds	7	10	0		Radstock	14	5	8
" Co-operative Union	28	18	6		Bridgwater	18	13	8
" Bank Interest	0	17	6		" Delegations	5	19	10
" Trade Dividend	0	2	1		" Congress Delegate	4	9	4
" Refund from Bridgwater	0	2	6		" S.-W. Educa. Assoc. Meetings	4	1	4
					" " Subscription	1	1	0
					" Secretary's remuneration	5	0	0
Audited—					" Treasurer's remuneration	2	0	0
W. H. MERRICK.					" Sub-executive Meetings	28	18	6
A. H. J. STROUD.					" " (special)	4	6	4
					" Propaganda Grant (Weston)	4	18	6
					" Printing, Postage and Carriage	11	12	1
					" Special Propaganda	20	13	3
					" Cost of Audit	1	13	2
					" Cash in Bank	57	2	3
					" Cash in hand	7	17	11
	£221	17	7			£221	17	7

C. A. CONNOLLY, Secretary.

No. 2.—DEVON.

Executive Committee.

Mr. E. R. S. Mundy (chairman), Exeter.	Mr. M. Hoaré, Buckfastleigh.
„ E. Truscott (secretary), Plymouth.	„ C. H. Lethbridge, Plymouth.
„ W. Stone (treasurer), Teignmouth.	„ F. E. Willis, Torquay.
„ C. Medland, Okehampton.	„ H. S. Glanfield, Newton Abbot.
„ T. Dunn, Exmouth.	

Sectional Board Representative: Rev. A. G. Ramsey.

Representative of the South-Western Educational Association :

Mr. F. E. Willis.

Conferences have been held during the year as under :—

Date.	Where held.	Subject Discussed.	Introduced by
1916.			
16th March	Tavistock	Annual Report	District Secretary.
24th June	Plymouth	Invoicing Through	Mr. S. G. Prince.
16th September.	Exmouth	Professor Hall's Congress Paper	Mr. E. R. S. Mundy.
18th December..	Torquay	Co-operative Insurance	Mr. J. C. Sykes.

Our conference at Tavistock was the annual meeting of the association. On the report, several speakers drew attention to the need of a vigorous effort in the rural districts. It was felt that, with the development of road motor traffic, no village ought to be out of touch with the co-operative store.

The Plymouth conference was the best attended for some years. The question of (I.T.) "Invoicing Through," as operated by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, was introduced by Mr. S. G. Prince (Plymouth). Many

of the delegates present could not agree with Mr. Prince, but all admired his tenacity in endeavouring to effect, in his opinion, a much needed reform.

At our third conference Professor Hall's Congress Paper was presented. The delegates, however, failed to rise to the occasion. We desire to commend this paper, and express the hope that attention will be given to the economic results of the war.

Our conference at Torquay was very successful. The subject for discussion, "Co-operative Insurance," was most timely. Mr. J. C. Sykes (Insurance Society) was available to introduce it. Prominence was given to the collective scheme, so successfully worked by the Co-operative Insurance Society.

The question of the amalgamation and consolidation of societies in the county has been before us. The success attending the efforts in the Exeter district exceeded our most sanguine expectation, large increases in membership and trade having followed, and extensions of premises and the purchases of new property becoming imperative under the new arrangements. We have been invited to take part in a new effort to link up the societies in the South-Western area. We feel that nothing but good can result.

At the eleven committee meetings held in addition to the quarterly conferences, many important matters have been considered, amongst them the question of a permanent propagandist for the district. A suitable scheme has been prepared and adopted, and it is to be hoped that the responsible authority will allow it to be put into operation.

In reviewing the year there is every reason for encouragement. Developments are taking place on every hand. Co-operation in the county was never more robust. Although we have not the pleasure of registering any new societies, the consolidation and strengthening of those established has gone on at a very rapid pace. We should be pleased if societies would keep us well informed of extensions of trade or premises that may take place from time to time. We are only able to note here a few of the many developments taking place.

Buckfastleigh report taking over between 50 and 60 acres of land to extend the developments outlined last year.

Exeter has opened a new clothing department, handsomely fitted up and well-stocked. The society has also opened a new confectionery department with well-appointed tea rooms. A fire-wood department has also been opened, fitted with electrically-driven machinery.

Exmouth has purchased property at Lymington, to build stores, and thus extend in that district.

Newton Abbot has purchased commodious premises in the centre of the town, and has transferred its outfitting and tailoring departments. It has also opened other new departments.

Plymouth reports new developments, as important as those of 1915. The new code of rules adopted provides for an increase in committee from ten to fifteen. The farms have been constituted as a separate department

and a manager appointed. Since that appointment, a further addition of 759 acres to the land owned by this society has been made. The land now under cultivation is in excess of 2,600 acres. The action taken in respect to "Invoicing Through," has brought the matter under the notice of the movement and occasioned a thorough investigation. Against the imposition of the tax of £14,481. 10s. Excess Profits Duty for the first year of the war, an appeal was made to a special commission of inquiry. The appeal was not granted, but a promise given that a case will be stated for hearing in the High Court of Justice. Other societies in numbers have promised support and to raise the question with their M.P.'s. Of more than local importance has been the inauguration throughout the society's departments of national trade union rates of wages and conditions of employment, the outcome of a strike largely manipulated by the A.U.C.E., in pursuance of their policy of attack upon societies not prepared to give way to unjust and inequitable demands. In this the society has received the thanks of numbers of societies. A unique departure has been the preparation of cinematograph views of the society's property and activities. Exhibitions of the same have given great satisfaction. To utilise recently acquired property to the fullest for the benefit of the members, Whymptstone Hall at Modbury, and Stoke House at Membland, have been converted into Holiday Homes, and a char-a-banc purchased for the conveyance of members to and from these places. At Whymptstone, the education committee created a record by organising the first summer school ever carried on by a single society. In other departments of business the extensions have been a new sausage factory, and the opening of the following branches:—Dairy, 2; grocery, 1; butchery, 2; green-grocery, 3; confectionery, 4. In addition, the drapery and furnishing branches at Devonport have been transferred to the main thoroughfare, and a tea-room provided.

Plympton reports a branch opened at Ivybridge in May, 1916. A steady increase of trade, and new members were made. It has opened up the adjacent villages of Ermington, Ugberough, and Harford, and has purchased two adjoining premises in Plympton, and adapted one for a butchery department. There has been a great increase in sales during the year.

South Molton reports that its sales, capital, and membership have largely increased. A cash railway system has been installed, and many other improvements adopted to meet the shortage of labour, including a system of "bread tokens."

Torquay reports having taken 70 acres of additional land, and is producing five hundred gallons of milk per week, or half of the total weekly supply to its members. It has installed boot repairing machinery, and purchased a centrally situated freehold premises at Babbacombe.

The Plymouth Printers report trade and profit exceeding that of any previous period. A Monotype type-setting machine has recently been installed. The committee most earnestly appeal to friends for more capital.

The District has kept in touch with matters of an educational and social

The second conference was held at Penzance on 22nd July, 1916. Mr. Bartlett (president of the local society) took the chair, and gave a brief history of the Penzance Society and a hearty welcome to the delegates.

Mr. Jose read his paper on "Some Obstacles to Progress," and a good discussion followed, the points raised being many and varied. Propaganda work again took up a considerable amount of the time, and the delegates greatly differed in their opinions as to the methods that should be adopted. It was suggested that a full-time propagandist should be employed for Cornwall, but this did not find favour. The conference pressed upon the executive the desirability of pushing propaganda throughout the country.

The third conference was held at St. Blazey. Mr. Bolt (president of the local society) took the chair, and gave the delegates a hearty welcome.

Mr. J. Pryor introduced Prof. Hall's Congress paper, "The Economic Results of the War and their Effects upon the Co-operative Movement." A lengthy discussion followed. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Mr. Pryor concluded a very successful conference.

The fourth conference was held at Saltash, jointly with the Sectional Board. Mr. R. Pearce (Sectional Board) took the chair, and the delegates were heartily welcomed by Mr. Lander (president of the local society).

Mr. Andrews (Sectional Board) introduced the question of amalgamating the whole of the societies into one gigantic national society, and endeavoured to show the advantages which would follow such united effort. An animated discussion took place, which revealed a serious difference of opinion on this important subject. The following resolution was adopted :—

In view of the present-day financial and commercial development, and the attacks now being made upon the co-operative movement in Parliament and elsewhere, this conference approves of the amalgamation and consolidation of societies wherever practicable in order that (1) their operations may not be restricted, but extended, and, (2) that the further much-needed advance may be possible by the movement as a whole.

The executive has held nine meetings during the year, in which much routine work has been done.

Our propaganda efforts this year have been more extensive and the results are satisfactory, meetings having been held in various parts of Cornwall.

Penzance has started a branch at Hayle, and several propagandist meetings in new places have been held, which shows that an active spirit prevails in that district.

Camborne has started a branch at Poole, and opened a new bakery. By reports received from their representative the society is making members and increasing its trade at a rapid rate. Good results are expected from that district.

St. Austell Society has opened a branch in the Clay district at Bugle, and there is every prospect that the venture will be very successful. More meetings are to be held in this district.

Lostwithiel, the youngest society in the district, is making fair headway, their latest balance sheet being very satisfactory.

Some societies have been anxious as to what system they should follow in the retailing of bread. The executive discussed the question somewhat lengthily and decided to circularise the societies suggesting the retention of the weight system.

AMALGAMATION.

There is a strong tendency to bring societies that are in close proximity to one another, and where possibly overlapping may occur, into one consolidated body. The executive have mapped out the county, in what they think suitable areas, for the federation of societies to carry on some business which single societies would scarcely be able to cope with, *e.g.*, bakeries, milk supply, laundry work, and coal delivery. Two meetings have been held with that end in view, and the results have been very encouraging. The areas are as follows :—

GROUP 1.	GROUP 2.	GROUP 3.	GROUP 4.
Penzance	St. Austell	Bodmin	Darite
Camborne	St. Blazey	Delabole	Tokenbury
Falmouth	St. Columb Road	Wadebridge	Pensilva
Truro	Roche		St. Ives
	Lostwithiel		Menheniot
			Liskeard

A successful meeting of Group 4 was held at Liskeard on 9th December, 1916, and a discussion on the advantages of a closer linking up of the neighbouring societies in the Liskeard area, where societies were established earlier perhaps than in any other district in Cornwall, some of them being in close proximity to each other, was entered into. The meeting, which was well represented, agreed :—

(1) "That in this time of financial strain this gathering of delegates, representing the societies in the neighbourhood of Liskeard, would suggest to their various societies the consideration of the matter of consolidation of their forces, so that the productive and distributive development may be increased; and

(2) "That the societies here represented shall be again convened at some date early in the spring to further consider the matter."

Further endeavours have been made to amalgamate some of the societies in the district, and, although we have not yet been successful, we feel assured that good results will follow our efforts.

A joint circular has been issued by the association and the South-Western Sectional Board offering to bear the expense of propaganda meetings, and it is hoped that societies will take advantage of it.

The restricted train service has made it awkward for propaganda work, but the executive have done their best to overcome these difficulties.

Much propaganda work remains to be done, and it is hoped that societies

will realise their responsibilities in this matter. The present time offering so many opportunities for societies to extend their operations, we feel sure that every society will make an effort.

Throughout the whole of Cornwall the tone and condition of societies are healthy. From almost every area the reports are very good and distinctly strong.

Our thanks are due to those societies that have entertained conferences during the year.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance Grant from last Account	51	16	5
" Societies' Subscriptions.....	57	13	9
" Devon District Association	5	0	0
" South-Western Section	33	15	11
	<hr/>		
	£148	6	1

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Conferences—			
Camborne	12	5	4
Penzance	13	11	8
St. Blazey	8	11	3
Saltash	9	1	11
" Executive Meetings.....	20	17	11
" Delegations.....	17	19	9
" Propaganda	8	2	11
" Printing	4	16	0
" Postage and Stationery	2	8	6
" Secretary	3	3	0
" Treasurer	2	2	0
" Cash in hand	45	5	10
	<hr/>		
Audited— J. Pryor, P.A.			
	<hr/>		
	£148	6	1

Audited—
J. PRYOR, P.A.

J. R. TOMS, Secretary.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee.

Mr. R. G. Naish (chairman), Twerton, Mrs. S. Watts, Newton Abbot.

Bath.

Mr. F. Trott (hon. treasurer), Bristol.

., W. White (hon. secretary), Torquay.

„ W. Chapman, Exmouth.

J. W. Webber, Paignton.

„ H. Grassby, Exeter.

J. M. Burleigh, Bristol.

Mrs. Berryman, Exeter.

Representative of the Sectional Board: Rev. G. Ramsay.

Representative of the Devon Conference Association: Mr. F. E. Willis

Representative of the Bristol and Somerset Conference Association:

Mr. W. Brown.

The work of our Association is curtailed owing to the prevailing conditions. Considering the cost of travelling our conferences have been well attended and the discussions useful and intelligent.

We were favoured at our first and second conferences in October at Plymouth, and in January at Bristol, by the presence of Mr. Rae, who gave

an address on educational work, having reference directly to the programme of the Central Education Committee. His advice was warmly appreciated, and the discussions which followed of great interest.

Mr. Rae also during his visit to Devon addressed meetings at Plymouth and Torquay, and at the latter town, by invitation of the municipal authorities, he gave an address to students of the Secondary Schools, School of Science and Art, and the Evening Continuation and Technical Classes on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes. The Mayor of Torquay, who presided, gave Mr. Rae a hearty vote of thanks on behalf of those present.

The third conference at Exeter was most successful. Mr. Mundy read his paper, "Democracy and Education," and the discussion was most instructive. A resolution of appreciation was passed on Mr. Fisher's efforts and proposals for the reorganisation of the educational work of the country.

The Plymouth Society, through its education committee, has carried out a very extensive programme during the winter.

Bovey Tracey education committee is now affiliated to our Association.

A class for women co-operators was held at Torquay and 57 students were enrolled.

Taunton Society now has an education committee.

R. G. NAISH, Chairman.

W. WHITE, Hon. Secretary.

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT FUND.

Committee.

Mr. H. Wilkins (chairman), C.W.S.

„ A. Bullock (secretary), Bristol.

„ J. White (auditor).

„ Ackland, Frome.

„ R. Andrews, Newton Abbot.

„ W. Brown, Weston-super-Mare.

Mrs. M. Found, Bristol.

Mr. G. J. Jones, Twerton.

„ E. R. S. Mundy, Exeter.

Rev. G. A. Ramsay, Radstock.

Mr. A. Thatcher, Taunton.

„ H. Westbury, Bridgwater.

„ W. White, Torquay.

We have pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval the third annual report and statement of accounts for the period ended 31st December, 1916.

We hoped when presenting our last report that ere this time had arrived, the terrible struggle between the nations would have been brought to a close and an honourable and lasting peace established, but it is not so. We trust it may be soon. We can but repeat that, like all other institutions and organisations, the influence of the great war has been felt by the fund in the increased cost of maintenance at the homes that we have used, as well

as the higher tariffs where arrangements have been made for staying at private dwellings. This, of course, is the natural outcome of the extra expense incurred at these places by the advanced prices of the necessaries of life. These extra charges we have willingly met seeing that they are fair and reasonable in the present unhappy circumstances.

The annual meeting was held at Exeter on 12th February, when the committee was appointed and other necessary business transacted.

MEMBERSHIP.

We are pleased to show additions to our membership since last report, the following societies having been admitted:—Chard, Yeovil, Portishead, Tavistock, and Saltash (rejoined). We regret that the Oakhill Society has decided to discontinue, but we hope this is but a temporary decision. It is very gratifying to find that the good work of the fund is becoming better known and appreciated as time goes on. This is shown by the increased contributions of some of the societies, and particularly by the practical sympathy of the Bristol and Brislington Co-operative Wholesale Society Employés' Benevolent Fund, and the Bristol Society's Employés' Charities Fund, from each of which we have received contributions.

FINANCE.

In the matter of finance the substantial increases we think will give general satisfaction. We have received in contributions from societies, including Co-operative Wholesale Society and Bristol employés, £229. 13s. 5d., an increase of £68. 8s., and from patients contributing towards their expenses we have received £7. 17s. 6d., increase of £7. 7s. 6d. It may be well to remind societies that if we received the amount aimed at (contributions as per rule), viz., 1d. per member, we should receive a much larger amount still.

CASES.

One hundred and twenty-three cases have been dealt with during the year, an increase of 36 cases, at a total cost of £229—an average of about 37s. per case. The time of stay for convalescents in institutions is usually three weeks. In some cases we have agreed to a longer stay when it has been shown that permanent benefit to the patient was likely to result.

The benefits have been received by 61 men, 51 women, and 11 children. Forty-four cases have come under scale A, 4 under scale B, 1 under scale C, and 73 under scale D; together 400 weeks' benefits have been granted to the 123 cases considered.

We have required to use sanatoria and convalescent homes in all parts of the section as well as outside. In Somerset we have continued to use and to send patients to St. Mary's, Walton; Belmont and Victoria, also at Clevedon; Royal West of England Sanatorium, Women's Convalescent Home, and Children's Home, Weston-super-Mare; Eye Institution and Royal Infirmary, Bristol; Combe Down, Bath, Winscombe and Winsley Sanatoria and Bath Hospital. In Devon—Ockenden, Torquay, Dids-

worthy, Crown Hill, Plymouth, Moretonhampstead, and Ilfracombe. In Cornwall—Perranporth, Saltash, and the "Cheesewring." In addition to these homes we have assisted patients to go to various institutions for special treatment in different parts of the country. Arrangements have also been made for those who prefer to spend the time in private dwellings rather than go to public institutions; we have been fortunate in finding suitable places, and people willing to take and care for the patients we have sent. The letters of thanks received by us prove conclusively that the accommodation thus provided has given entire satisfaction.

The complaints from which patients suffer are many and various.

In concluding this report mention should be made of the joint conference of representatives of all the funds which was held in London in July, the primary object of which was to discuss matters of interest relating to the funds, and as far as possible to bring about uniformity of action in the working of each of the funds. We feel that this conference served a very useful purpose.

If it were possible to publish all the letters of appreciation and thanks for benefits received it would be realised more fully what a beneficial work we are engaged in.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance in Bank, 31st Dec., 1916	91	10 1	By Grants to Cases	229	0 0
" " " hand, "	1	6 4	" Cheque Books	1	13 4
" Contribution from Societies	195	5 5	" Travelling and Deputations	3	10 7
" " " C.W.S.	26	5 0	" Printing and Stationery	5	12 7
" Bristol and Brislington C.W.S.			" General Postages	4	1 4
Employés' Benevolent Fund..	5	0 0	" Recommendation Notes purchased	2	2 0
" Bristol Societies Employés'			" Secretary's Honorarium	15	0 0
Charities Fund	3	3 0	" Bank charges	0	3 2
" Contributions from patients	6	17 6	" Balance in Bank	72	13 0
" Refund Case 201	1	16 0	" " " hand	0	15 6
" Printers' dividend	0	1 3			
" Bank dividend	1	0 6			
" Interest	2	6 5			
	£334	11 6		£334	11 6

BANK DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
On Deposit, 31st December, 1915....	523	12 2	On Deposit, 31st December, 1916....	545	6 11
Interest, 1916	21	14 9	Audited—		
	£545	6 11	J. WHITE, F.A.A.	£545	6 11

H. J. A. WILKINS, Chairman.
ALBERT BULLOCK, Secretary.

(8) WESTERN SECTION.

Nine meetings of the Board have been held since last Congress. The attendances of members are as follows:—

	Present.	Absent.
Mr. E. R. Wood	8	1*
Mr. R. R. Chappell	9	—
Mr. J. P. Davies	9	—
Mr. D. Evans	9	—
Mr. D. Williams	9	—
Mr. W. H. Bryant	9	—

* Owing to fire at Treherbert Branch.

The following appointments were made at the first meeting:—

Chairman : Mr. E. R. Wood.

Treasurer : Mr. Chappell.

Secretary : Mr. Bryant.

Representatives to the —

United Board Mr. D. Evans.

Central Education Committee Mr. D. Williams.

District Associations' Executives—

Gloucester and Hereford Mr. J. P. Davies.

Monmouth, Brecon, and East Glamorgan .. Mr. W. H. Bryant.

West Wales Mr. R. R. Chappell.

Mid-Glamorgan Mr. E. R. Wood.

We have pleasure in reporting that, generally speaking, the trade of the societies in this section is one unbroken record of increase and extension, notwithstanding the ever-growing difficulties of getting supplies of various goods. But we are in strong hope that after making full allowance for the inflation of figures by reason of high prices, the movement will emerge really more powerful financially, and with a greatly increased membership. Indeed, the influx of new members has been so great in some districts as to cause quite an embarrassment how to cope with the problem, in view of delays and deficiencies of supplies, and depleted staff.

We held a joint meeting with the representatives of our four districts on 27th July, to plan out and discuss the work to be attempted for the Congress year. Inasmuch as we have no active educational association at work, each district was asked to pay special attention to this part of our programme, with a view to more vigorous action educationally. The West Wales district has since made a strong effort to get each society not already having a separate

educational committee to establish one as early as possible, hoping thus to lay a basis for linking up in the future.

'HOURS AND WAGES BOARD.

Following upon meeting held prior to Congress and the instruction of Congress, several conferences have been held, for the purpose of completing the constitution of this Board. A provisional committee was entrusted with the task of drawing up rules, &c., and these were adopted at a conference held on 25th November, at Cardiff. The constitution was finally settled upon the lines of one Board for the whole section consisting of 16 members, eight of these to be elected direct from the societies, four from the district executives, and four from the Sectional Board. The election was duly carried out, and the first meeting of the Board was held on Saturday, 3rd March, when Mr. Wood was elected president, and Mr. H. R. Prosser (Gloucester) secretary.

CONFERENCES.

During the year (up to date) only two conferences have been held other than the meetings in connection with Hours and Wages Board and Congress Reception Committee.

The first conference was held at Swansea on 26th August, when Mr. Chappell introduced the subject of "Educational Work in the Section." There was a very good attendance and discussion, every sign being shown that the delegates fully realised the importance of a co-operatively educated democracy if our movement is to attain its fullest development.

The second conference was held in Gloucester on Saturday, 21st October, the subject being the paper prepared for the Parliamentary Committee on "Income Tax." We were fortunate in getting the attendance of Mr. H. J. May to read his paper. The attendance was very large, and the discussion most earnest, the resolution being unanimously adopted, everyone present pledging themselves to act in their own locality in resistance of the threatened impost on co-operative savings. Mr. May made a most eloquent reply, and advocated strongly that the movement should be directly represented in the legislature.

SPECIAL PROPAGANDA.

It has not been possible to carry out, under existing circumstances, very much in the way of special efforts. Some societies that had partly arranged a campaign decided that, owing to difficulties of goods supply, the effort had better be postponed. A special canvasser was engaged and did some good work in the area of the Cwmbwrla Society.

OVERLAPPING.

The services of the Board have been called in in several cases of complaints of overlapping in the Maesteg area, and in the Dulais Valley, near Neath. Members of the Board have been deputed to attend, and good hopes are entertained of amicable settlements in both cases.

The older case of three societies in the Eastern Valley of Monmouthshire has had great efforts expended upon it by the United Board representatives, Messrs. Charter, Millerchip, and Pollitt. Eventually the three committees concerned passed a resolution unanimously recommending amalgamation to their members. At the statutory meetings following two societies obtained a unanimous vote in favour, but at the third the necessary majority was lost by a very narrow margin, so that when it had seemed most hopeful that this long drawn out dispute would be brought to a satisfactory conclusion the result was disappointing. Hopes are still held, however, that wiser counsels will prevail, and fresh negotiations are afoot to press forward to the desired goal.

SWANSEA CONGRESS, 1917.

Most enthusiastic response has been made by all the societies in the section, and the only trouble with the reception committee is that the societies are inclined from their enthusiasm to make the numbers unwieldy. However, we can only see in this the strongest possible evidence of their desire to see the Congress a great success.

We regret exceedingly that war conditions debar the holding of an exhibition, especially as there is no large industrial area in our section where, in our opinion, it would be so beneficial as at Swansea. The president elect is Mr. E. R. Wood (Western Sectional Board), and the secretaries Messrs. T. Horrocks, J. R. Davies, and H. Brown.

LIBEL CASE.

Arising out of the action taken by a private trader in Gloucester, Messrs Chappell and Prosser (Gloucester) found it necessary to defend themselves by taking action for libel. The result was a complete vindication from the base charges made against them and the movement, and an injunction was made against the defendant. We congratulate Messrs. Prosser and Chappell upon their action and the successful outcome thereof.

CONVALESCENT FUND.

This fund has had another busy and prosperous year, busy in helping a large number of deserving cases, and prosperous in still further strengthening their financial position.

GENERAL.

The grand new premises of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in St. Mary Street, Cardiff, have been opened during the course of this year. No formal ceremony was possible under present conditions, but numerous meetings of delegates in connection with our various organisations have testified their great appreciation of the splendid building and the increased facilities to South Wales societies.

We wish to express our gratification at the constant good work that is being done by our four district associations, and think that its results will become increasingly apparent when happier peace times arrive.

We also wish to thank all those societies that have assisted us in our work in all ways, and that the Congress to be held in Swansea will bring more prominently still before the democracy the great things that are possible to them through our movement.

E. R. WOOD, Chairman.

W. H. BRYANT, Secretary.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

No. 1.—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD.

Executive Committee.

Mr. H. R. Prosser (chairman), Gloucester.	Mr. T. Miles, Cainscross.
„ G. Gooding (treasurer), Hereford.	„ A. J. Blackwell, Stroud.
„ R. R. Chappell (sec.), Gloucester.	„ M. Perkins, Cinderford.
„ J. P. Davies, Western Section.	„ J. Jefferies, Kemble.
„ C. S. Ridler, Lydney.	„ J. Blackwell, Gloucester.

In presenting the annual report and balance sheet of the association, we regret the dire conditions of war still surround us, which circumstance has hindered our usual activities, those we hope to renew as opportunity arises. One of the questions which has occupied the attention of societies in this district was their position in the Western Section, and they decided to send in a resolution to the Union asking to be transferred to some other section. They replied that the whole question of boundaries would be coming up for consideration on the report of the Survey Committee, which would be presented to Congress.

Our usual conferences have been held. The first was on the question of the alteration of the boundaries of the section, as it was the desire of societies in this district to go into some other section, and it was unanimously resolved that representation be made to the Co-operative Union to have this put into effect.

At the second conference Mr. Hall's Congress paper, "The Economic Results of the War and their Effect upon the Co-operative Movement," was discussed. Mr. Miles presided over a good attendance. The discussion on the paper was interesting, and appreciated by those who had not the privilege of hearing it read at the Congress. Mr. Charter (United Board) attended in order to place the views of the Board *re* the societies' application for the alteration of the boundaries of the sections.

The third conference was held at Gloucester, in conjunction with the sectional conference, when Mr. May introduced the question of "The Proposed Assessment of Dividends for Income Tax." The committee decided to make this one of the quarterly conferences. Mr. May read his paper and explained various points as he proceeded, and much information was gained on the subject.

The fourth conference was held at Cainscross, Mr. H. R. Prosser in the chair. At the request of the Cainscross Society we again had Mr. Hall's Congress Paper, when points not under consideration at the previous conference were discussed by those present.

The fifth conference was held at Hereford, Mr. H. R. Prosser in the chair. The paper for discussion was "The Proposed Taxation of Co-operative Dividends for Income Tax." The expression of opinion was that we must be on our guard and use our influence as co-operators with those who are seeking our votes to pledge support to our views on this subject.

The movement has done good work in keeping down the price of commodities, especially bread. Owing to the restrictions in building operations not much can be done in the way of extensions, but we are pleased to record that Cinderford has opened a branch at Blakeney, in which the association took part in the opening ceremony, and held a public meeting in the evening. We wish the members continued success in their new venture.

We have held meetings at South Cerney and Bream, and should have done so at other places, but the societies are unable during the present conflict to promote gatherings.

We thank those societies where conferences and meetings have been held, for their kind hospitality, and may the year 1917 bring us that peace which we have long desired.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward from 1915	27	17 5	By Conferences	26	5 1
„ Subscriptions from Societies	54	19 1	„ Committee Meetings	22	2 1
„ Co-operative Union	20	2 1	„ Public Meetings	11	6 2
			„ Delegations	1	13 4
			„ Printing	2	8 6
			„ Postage and Stationery.....	1	0 9
			„ Audit	0	5 0
			„ Hire of Room	0	2 6
			„ Treasurer	1	0 0
			„ Secretary.....	2	0 0
			„ Balance in hand	34	15 2
Audited— J. BENNETT.					
£102 18 7			£102 18 7		

R. R. CHAPPELL, Secretary.

NO. 2.—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN.

Executive Committee.

Mr. S. Godfrey (chairman), Blaenavon.	Coun. T. R. Pembro, J.P., Blaina.
„ William Watkins (vice-chairman), Ynysybwl.	„ Llew. Powell, Penarth.
„ J. Cowling, J.P. (treasurer), Newport.	Mr. T. Morris, Garndiffaith.
„ John Evans (secretary), Tredegar.	„ T. H. Protheroe, Senghenydd.
	„ W. H. Bryant (Western Sectional Board).

The executive again have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval the report and balance sheet for the year 1916.

Our country is still at grips with the enemy, and industries and all other activities are made subservient to the great call of the nation. Concentration of all our resources for one common object is the great purpose of all. The past two and a half years of warfare have emphasised one all-important fact, viz., the absolute necessity of united action, irrespective of individual interests, if we are to overcome our foes. "Co-operation in all things" is the one great cry to-day. Never before has the country been made to realise the full significance of this primary law of human life. All sections of the community are awakening to the fact that in it lies the healing power of all our social ills. Thus it is that we find that never before has there been so tremendous a progress made in our movement as there is to-day. Undoubtedly, on the productive side the war will tend to revise pre-existing conditions and place them on a more co-operative basis. On the distributive side we find extraordinary progress made. The reports from the various societies of our district at each of the conferences have been gratifying in the extreme, in spite of the innumerable difficulties that societies have experienced in procuring certain articles—sugar especially. The influx of new members into our movement has been unprecedented, and the trade returns show abnormal increases.

With this great development a mighty opportunity is offered our movement. We must see that its development should be on the right lines, and our association has much to do to direct this into the right channels. With this object in view, the executive, at the beginning of the year, thought that the time had come when more active propaganda work should be undertaken, and, after various suggestions, it was decided that delegations should be sent from the executive to all the societies in the district to discuss with them the best means to adopt to make the co-operative movement more effective. These visits were undertaken, and resulted in much good being done. Practically all societies set an evening apart for the discussion of this all-important subject. A general report of these visits was drawn up by the chairman (Mr. S. Godfrey), and was submitted to the conference held at Dowlais in January of this year. Various suggestions had been made, among the chief being organised advertisement through the help of the cinema films from the Co-operative Wholesale Society; house-to-house canvass; one big national co-operative day once a year, on which co-operative meetings should be held throughout the country. All these, however, were deemed inopportune at the present time, owing to the great difficulty in supplying any new members that would result from these efforts with the necessary commodities. Bearing this in mind, it was considered that the only possible solution at present was to concentrate their efforts upon the education of their members. To accomplish this, the following suggestions were made :—Public meetings, children's classes and men's guilds, co-operative literature properly distributed, more loyal support to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and a great appeal for capital, so that the Co-operative Wholesale Society could possess the means of production. For this purpose all

restriction upon share capital should be removed. Efforts should also be made to determine a uniform dividend, especially in districts where there was danger of overlapping. It was encouraging to find that many societies have already acted upon some of these suggestions since the visits to their societies.

The financial position of our association continues to be in a sound condition. In addition to the executive meetings, four conferences were held during the year.

The first was held under the auspices of the Co-operative Wholesale Society at the Co-operative Wholesale Society Dépôt, Cardiff, on 8th April, 1916. This being the annual meeting, the officers were elected. At this conference Mr. J. F. James (manager, Co-operative Wholesale Society, Cardiff) read a paper on "The Progress of Co-operation in South Wales." After speaking of the progress that had been made, he dealt with the subject of the "progress in the future." He suggested an inspector, having a full knowledge of co-operation and the working of the society. For want of such a system many members were lost altogether. A uniform dividend should also be adopted—not more than 2s. Again, their valleys were ideal grounds for "one valley, one society"—a very simple proposition, and yet how difficult to bring about. Individual interests seemed to be as great a stumbling-block to the attainment of this as the vested interests of large industries when the municipal or national welfare was concerned. But even this would only be a step to what should be their ultimate goal, viz., one society for the whole of South Wales, with its large emporium in every large central town. To accomplish this they must have larger minds and larger hearts. Co-operation must be their politics—yea, their religion.

A second conference was held on 8th July at Abersychan, under the auspices of the Abersychan Society. Mr. W. Blackmore (president, Abersychan Society) read a paper on "Observations of the Menaces of the Co-operative Movement." He said great improvement is needed on economy lines, and efficiency and more expert management to gather up the available resources and apply them to the new conditions. New times demand new measures and new men. Our future depends on greater efficiency in our working methods, lower dividends, lower prices, and more concentration of policy. At the present we are only doing about one-half of our members' trade; the other half is captured by the private trader. Let us critically examine our present cumbersome system, and see if we cannot meet the requirements of the members we have enrolled, as well as to make it possible for the poorest person to participate in the movement, which contains such great possibilities for the uplifting of the masses, and help to bring about a better and more equal share of the products of their toil and industry.

A third conference was held on 7th October, 1916, at Troedyrhiw, under the auspices of the Troedyrhiw Society. At this conference an excellent paper was read on "Education" by Mr. David Williams (ex-Mayor of Swansea and a member of the Western Sectional Board). Mr. Williams, in his opening remarks, said: "The hope for the future of the co-operative (as

well as kindred) organisations lies in the intelligence of its members, and for the achievement of that desirable object there is a considerable amount of activity going on amongst the working classes. Trade-unionism is now providing facilities for its members by affiliation with working-men's, &c., colleges and other educational associations, and the great movement to which we belong was also devoting a proportion of its funds to providing opportunities for intellectual development for its members. In some societies $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, in others $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, of the profits are reserved for this purpose, but I am sorry to observe, in going through the report, that there are several societies in the Western Section which did not devote any of their surplus for this most desirable object. The private trader has no interest in his customers outside of his trading relations with them. Co-operation, on the other hand, is concerned with the social and moral advancement of its members, and it is for that reason that it is essential that every society should have its educational committee, and that the committee should be fully and actively engaged in teaching its members that co-operation stands for honesty and purity in trade. In my visit to Lytham, in July of this year, I found that there were ten students from Wales attending the Summer School. This is surely a substantial nucleus for the establishment of a Summer School for the Western Section, and I sincerely hope that this matter will be taken up in earnest by the societies, so that we may start next summer with a school for the Western Section."

The fourth conference was held at Dowlais on 13th January, 1917, under the auspices of the Dowlais Society. An excellent paper was read by Ald. C. J. Griffiths on "Co-operation: A Survey."

All the conferences were excellently attended, and the discussions on the paper were of a very high standard. The subjects embraced many aspects of our movement, and did much to stimulate thought, and were an impetus to greater activities in giving to co-operation its rightful place in the social and economic condition of our country. The best thanks of the association are due to the readers of the papers.

The executive again wish to thank the various societies which have so kindly entertained the conferences, and for the excellent manner in which they have catered for the delegates.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Balance—March, 1916	74	12 7	To Conference	42	15 8
" Grant from Co-operative Union	21	8 1	" Executive Meetings	21	18 8
" Societies' Contributions	107	17 1	" Delegate to Congress	6	5 6
			" Delegate to Swansea Reception Committee	0	11 6
			" Propaganda	7	18 7
			" Section Conference	2	7 6
			" Printing, Postage, &c.	8	17 6
			" Secretary's Salary	5	0 0
			" Treasurer's Salary	3	0 0
			" Auditor's Fees	0	5 0
			" Balance in hand, March, 1917	104	17 10
Audited—					
L. N. SQUIRE.					
£203 17 9			£203 17 9		

JOHN EVANS, Secretary.

No. 3.—WEST WALES.

Executive Committee.

Mr. J. Eager (chairman), Burry Port.	Mr. M. H. Jones (auditor), Briton Ferry.
„ T. R. Williams (vice-chairman), Pontardawe.	„ E. Hopkins, Pontardulais.
„ Samuel Rees (treasurer), Swansea.	„ Tom Stroud, Resolven.
„ Samuel Jones (secretary), Skewen.	„ T. R. Davies, Treboeth.
	„ Samuel Thomas, Briton Ferry.

Representative of Western Sectional Board: Mr. R. R. Chappell, Gloucester.

We have pleasure in submitting for your consideration and approval the report and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1916.

It is a very pleasing feature that the movement still continues to make headway in our district, and the very encouraging reports presented by delegates at the various conferences indicate that the societies are coping with the demands upon them, despite the difficulties experienced through lack of transport and the curtailment of railway facilities.

As in past years, the association has, through the committee, rendered assistance to societies where necessary by the provision of speakers for public and other meetings.

Matters requiring urgent consideration have been dealt with at frequent intervals by the executive committee.

The following are some of the activities shown during the year by the respective societies:—

15th January, 1916—Branch of Cwmgorse Society opened at Brynamman. 14th February—New branch premises opened at Glyn-Neath for the Resolven Society. 11th March—New branch premises opened at Ty-Croes, Carmarthenshire, for the Ammanford Society; branch of Swansea Society opened at Danygraig, Swansea. 8th July—Branch of Swansea Society opened at Mount Pleasant, Swansea. 16th September—New bakery opened at Ammanford for the Ammanford Society. 26th October—Branch of the Burry Port Society opened at Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire.

Two special conferences were held during the year as follows:—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Speaker.
1916.			
8th Jan. ..	Swansea	Committees and Committee-men: Their duties and responsibilities.	Mr. H. L. Warren, C.W.S., Cardiff.
8th July ..	Swansea	Co-operative Finance and the War.	Mr. T. W. Allen, C.W.S., Director.

Both these conferences were well attended, and the subjects were dealt with in a masterly fashion by the respective speakers. The discussions which followed clearly demonstrated that the delegates were fully alive to the various matters submitted to them.

The annual meeting was held at Swansea on 24th June, 1916, when the foregoing officers and committee were elected, and consideration given to amendments of rules.

The four quarterly conferences were held as follows:—

Date.	Place.	Subject.	Speaker.
1916.			
18th Mar. .	Altwen, Swansea Valley	Mr. Hall's paper, entitled Co-operative control of Raw Materials.	Mr. W. H. Bryant, Sectional Board.
24th June .	Swansea	Delegate's Report to Lancaster Congress and Consideration of Rules.	Mr. T. Stroud, Resolven.
16th Sept. .	Ammanford .	Discussion on Educational Work as reported from Sectional Conference held at Swansea, 26th August, 1916.	Mr. T. R. Davies, Landore.
16th Dec. .	Carmarthen .	Mr. H. J. May's paper, entitled Co-operative Societies and Income Tax.	Mr. R. R. Chappell, Sectional Board.

We are pleased to note that the amalgamation of two of the three societies in the Swansea area, viz., Swansea and Treboeth, has been accomplished, and it is confidently hoped that before these lines are printed the Cwmbwrla Society will have also completed the negotiations.

This triple alliance in such an industrial centre cannot but be a source of strength to our movement, and it is hoped, where possible, a similar course will be adopted by other societies.

SPECIAL PROPAGANDA.

A portion of the grant made by the Co-operative Union for special propaganda in our district has been devoted to the development of the movement in Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, where a canvasser was brought down to canvass the whole district, with the result that a branch store was opened as indicated above, and which promises to be a very successful adjunct to the Burry Port Society. The premises then acquired have already proved to be too small, and negotiations have been completed for the acquiring of the entire freehold, land, and buildings, known as the "Priory," Lady Street, and the work of converting same into a suitable business premises is well in hand. Other districts are also under consideration.

EDUCATIONAL.

Though it has been found that a good deal of educational work is being carried on by societies generally, there are but few which have separate education committees to undertake this special work. With a view to stimulating efforts in this direction, all the societies in the district have been

Conferences have been held as follows:—

Society.	Subject.	Introduced by
Cwmavon	Co-operative Finance and the War.	Mr. Wyndham Edwards.
Nantymoel ..	Raw Materials	Mr. J. Hellesey.
Mid-Rhondda .	Trade Unionism and Co-operation.	Mr. J. Atkins.
Barry	Should we Advertise.....	Mr. H. Murrell.

Co-operation in the district has shown great activity during the year. In spite of this terrible war, and its unlimited and restricted consequences, societies record great increases in membership, trade, and share capital, and are compelled to extend their premises to cope with the influx of new members. The workers are realising that only by collective action can they safeguard themselves, hence, co-operation flourishes whilst private limited combines decrease.

The conferences were well attended, and the excellent papers read thereat were cordially received. The discussions were vigorous and intelligent, and showed that the delegates were keen students of co-operation.

During this year several of the societies have formed educational committees, and children's classes, bookkeeping classes, classes in co-operation, and industrial history have been conducted, and we look forward to excellent results.

We must keep on educating the young if we are going to achieve our goal, viz., the co-operative commonwealth.

The members of the Sectional Board visited a number of societies, explaining the Excess Profits Tax to a large number of their members.

This injustice imposed on societies should fire the souls of co-operators to carry on a vigorous propaganda campaign against the tax upon the dividends, which the organised private traders are going to try to yoke us with through the House of Commons after the war. No stone should be left unturned, no barrier raised against us should remain intact, our voices should be made clear and distinct against a further burden, so that our enemies in the British legislature will not dare to interfere with the liberties of an enlightened democracy.

The executive council hope societies will pay attention during 1917 to the ethics of co-operation, because therein lies the realisation of a united Europe, when wars will never occur again to destroy the flower of her manhood.

The following is the financial statement for the year 1916 :—

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand, 31st December, 1915	68	18	9½	By Conferences and Executive Meetings	42	15	9
„ Subscriptions from Societies	61	11	8	„ Stamps, &c.	2	7	8
„ Co-operative Union	19	4	4	„ Secretary's Salary	3	0	0
„ Bank Interest and Dividend	1	9	1	„ Printing and Stationery	7	6	0
				„ Sectional Conferences—			
				Delegation	8	18	8
				„ Wages Board—Delegation	2	10	0
				„ Propaganda Meetings	18	14	0
				„ Congress Delegate	5	0	0
				„ Auditing Accounts	0	5	0
				„ Bank Commission	0	0	6
				„ Cash in Bank, 31st Dec., 1916....	65	6	3½
	£151	8	10½		£151	8	10½

Audited—
THOS. L. ARTHUR.

DAVID J. JONES, Secretary.

THE WESTERN CO-OPERATIVE CONVALESCENT FUND.

The committee have pleasure in presenting the report and statement of accounts for the third year of the Fund's operations, and in view of the exceptional times through which we are now passing, and the special difficulties created by the war, we trust same will be received with general satisfaction.

The great and terrible struggle of nations continues throughout Europe, and the general arrangements of individuals and institutions are thereby generally dislocated.

At our last general meeting we had great hopes of an honourable peace being secured during the year, but unhappily this has not been secured, and we can only trust that the present year will bring forth victory and peace, and we shall welcome normal times and conditions once again.

During the year every effort has been made to secure the membership of the societies which had not joined the Fund, and we are pleased to report that the following six societies have joined during the year :—Bryn, Cinderford, Craigeefnparc, Cwmgorse, Glyncorrwg, and Trimsaran. The Llanbradach and Treboeth societies are removed from our subscription list owing to their amalgamation with the Newport and Swansea societies respectively. Their members, however, still continue to benefit through their new societies. The Alltwn Society has also agreed to join with the commencement of the year 1917.

During the year conferences have been attended, societies visited with a view to their joining the Fund, and the committee do not intend relaxing their efforts until the about twenty remaining societies in our section become affiliated.

We are pleased to report that all societies' subscriptions have been paid, and amount to £346. 14s., being an increase of £54. 0s. 2d. over last year.

This is accounted for by the splendid development of co-operation throughout our section.

Twenty-eight societies have received benefit on behalf of 91 members, amounting to £201. 7s. 1d., representing $212\frac{1}{2}$ weeks stay at an average cost of 19s. per week. This, you will observe, is a slight reduction in the number of applicants for benefit, whilst there is an appreciable rise in the average cost per week. The latter is accounted for by the increased cost of food, and institutions and hostesses being compelled to increase their charges.

The expenses of management amount to £40. 4s. 11d.

CASES.

The cases continue to show great variation in complaints and needs, and many of those who have received benefit were sadly in need of the help of the Fund, and have expressed their great satisfaction. Many letters of thanks have been received, all bearing testimony to the graceful help and kind treatment they have received at Institutions and Homes. The wide scope of the Fund's operations has been specially beneficial during the period under review. Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining accommodation for some cases in convalescent homes, but in all cases we have been able to make satisfactory arrangements for their accommodation either with friends and relatives or co-operative lodgings. In all our cases we are guided by the report of the medical adviser, and when applications are made we should be greatly obliged if societies would obtain a report from the doctor as to the most suitable place for the convalescent to be sent, and forward this with the application form.

We regret to report that one case, after an absence from home of three weeks, and who appeared to be benefiting by the change, passed away within a week of his return. Reviewing the whole of the cases, we are glad to say that the results obtained have been the means of giving restored health and general satisfaction.

FORMS OF BENEFIT.

As will be seen by the tables which we give, 37 cases have been dealt with under form A, of which 15 have been sent to that beautiful Home of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited at Roden, situated midst delightful scenery in Salop. Fourteen cases have been sent to the Rest at Southerndown, which has been very popular with our applicants.

Under form B we have been able to arrange nine cases, and we appreciate the true co-operative spirit extended to our convalescents.

The most harmonious relationship exists between the Fund and hostesses under this section, and we extend to them our gratitude for the help which they have given us.

Form C cases this year have considerably increased, the reason for which has been previously given, and the general satisfaction received with these cases amply justifies the wide scope of the Fund's operations.

OTHER MATTERS.

During the year we have lost the services of one of our most faithful colleagues in Mrs. E. Bye (Gloucester) who, by reason of her removal from our section, was compelled to resign her seat on the Fund committee. During the year we have had the privilege of being represented at a conference of all the convalescent funds, which was held in London in July, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. J. May. The Southern Fund was represented by nearly the whole of its committee, the Midland Fund by Mr. C. A. W. Saxton (secretary), the South-Western Fund by Messrs. H. J. Wilkins and C. Bullock (secretary), and your own Fund was represented by the secretary. The methods of dealing with cases and the operations of the various funds were freely discussed, and valuable information was obtained as a result of the expression of opinions.

The second annual meeting was held at the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, Bute Terrace, Cardiff, on Saturday, 12th February, 1916, at 3 p.m., under the chairmanship of Mr. J. P. Davies, when 42 delegates, representing 25 societies, were present.

IN CONCLUSION.

Our sincere thanks are tendered to the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited for the use of rooms for our meetings and for their hospitality, to Mr. H. L. Warren for services as auditor of the Fund, also to the committees and secretaries of societies for their assistance in giving information regarding the cases.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR, 1916.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Cash in Bank, 31st Dec., 1915	783	2 0	By Grants to Cases	201	7 1
„ Notes in hand, „	1	11 6	„ Expenses of Management—		
„ Subscriptions from Societies	346	14 0	Secretary's Salary	26	0 0
„ Donation from Co-operative			Stationery	6	5 11
Wholesale Society Ltd.	26	5 0	Travelling	2	7 11
„ Bank Interest and Dividend	32	6 7	Sundries	0	2 6
			Bank Commission	0	2 2
Audited—			Postages	5	6 5
H. L. WARREN.			„ Cash in Bank, 31st Dec., 1916	948	7 1
	£1,189	19 1		£1,189	19 1

J. P. DAVIES, Chairman.

D. H. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT.

The PRESIDENT: We now proceed to the Report of the Central Board. We begin at page 2, paragraph 1, which deals with the Industrial Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom in 1915.

GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

(See Report 2, page 97.)

In paragraph 2, dealing with the general progress of the movement, The GENERAL SECRETARY said: I want to say a word in explanation of the omission from the report of the statistics which always appeared there. The committee-men of the societies are quite well aware of the difficulties they are experiencing in their own offices. When the statistics should have been compiled there were still 400 returns to come in. On Thursday, before coming from Manchester, there were still 175 short of completion. If any societies represented here have not sent in their returns we appeal to you to see that they are sent in. We have got an estimate of the figures relating to the retail distributive societies, but these figures exclude all other forces of co-operation. At the end of 1916 the estimate showed $3\frac{1}{2}$ million members; the share capital is 47 millions, an increase on the previous year of about 4 millions; the trade is estimated at 120 millions, an increase of 18 millions on the previous year. Compared with 1915 there was an increase of about 210,000 in membership, and £3,600,000 in share capital, and £14,500,000 in trade.

Mr. J. PENNY (Sheffield and Ecclesall): Is it the intention of the Board to send out the statistical returns when completed to all the delegates, or will the figures only be obtainable in the published report which will be brought out at half-a-crown? Will it be sent out free, or shall we have to buy it?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: That has not been considered yet.

A DELEGATE: Will it be published in the *News*?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: No. We should require several issues of the *News* for that. We shall publish a summary in the *News*.

JOURNALS OF THE MOVEMENT.

(See Report 10, page 113.)

Mr. W. O. STEELE (Grimsby), on a paragraph in the Report relating to co-operative journals, asked: Is it ever going to be possible to issue a daily newspaper to educate the masses?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: You will have an opportunity of discussing that on the report of the Survey Committee dealing with the literature of the movement.

CENTRAL BOARD.

(See Report 16, page 116.)

Mr. E. WHITELEY (Manchester and Salford) (quoting from the section dealing with the Central Board): "The chief business transacted at the meeting was consideration of and decision as to the course of action to be taken with the various resolutions adopted by Congress." What was the course adopted with respect to the resolution regarding the Defence Fund?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: Circulars have already been sent out and returns are coming in.

Mr. WHITELEY: What is the explanation for the circulars not being sent out till within the last eight days?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: Shortage of labour! We have lost a number of men, and the staff is made up with females. We are in the same position as you are in your own offices. Societies will admit they have not had to wait for replies to correspondence. We sent these circulars out asking for guarantees, and we have had returns from a number of societies complying with our request.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY AND EXHIBITIONS.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York): Can anything be said as to the result of the deputation that waited upon the Wholesale Directors regarding the exhibitions?

The GENERAL SECRETARY: That appears in the report and I will read a resolution to be submitted when we come to it.

CO-OPERATORS AND TRADE-UNIONISTS.

Mr. D. MCCARTHY (Leicester), referring to the proposal to issue a manifesto to co-operative societies and trade-unionists, asked: Does the Union intend this relationship to be a real live one—something on the lines of the lectures by Professor Hall—so that the trade-unionist and co-operative movements may be brought into active partnership by local committees? We are trying that in Leicester.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: In the report of the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators it is therein referred to. It was discussed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, but they could not see eye to eye with the manifesto we asked them to issue. There is a proposal that six representatives should be appointed.

CENTRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

(See Report 20, page 121.)

Mr. RAE (chairman of the Central Education Committee): The moving of the committee's report usually involves making a speech, but inasmuch as the Central Board have placed in the hands of the Central Education

Committee a special resolution dealing with education, I do not propose this morning to make a speech just now. I, therefore, formally move the adoption of the committee's report, and invite questions and criticisms.

Mr. D. MCCARTHY (Leicester): May I suggest that the Central Education Committee should advise committees not to waste time and money on the engagement of comic singers for their concerts. Other places can do that quite well enough, and co-operative societies should let them do it, and spend whatever money they have on education.

Mr. J. PENNY (Sheffield and Ecclesall): On the question of the Co-operative Men's Guild, I think something ought to be said at this Congress as to the importance of pressing this particular form of educational work upon the co-operative movement generally. It is my experience in a large society that while you may have a small circle of members interested in the movement, the great mass of the members are never reached. We may hold demonstrations, concerts, lectures, galas, and other gatherings, but do we not find that they are attended by the same people over and over again? This is a weakness right throughout the movement. Among our members we have a lot of people who probably will never take a deep interest in the society, and the question was how to increase the faithful few. I think the Men's Guild fills the need of the movement so far as the men are concerned. Women can and generally do speak for themselves. I think every society should take this matter in hand, and get a branch of the guild formed and persuade as many male members as possible to attend the meetings, where the affairs of the society can be discussed as they cannot be discussed at the quarterly meetings. By these means we may be able to increase the number of members taking an interest in what I may call the higher politics of the movement. I think the guild can play—and is playing, as a matter of fact—a useful part in educating co-operative opinion; and I hope, as a result of this great gathering, an effort will be made by committees to launch out in the formation of branches of the guild in connection with their societies, and in that way promote the educational work and the well-being of the movement.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Burnley): We have under consideration in our society the joining up of our forces for propaganda purposes. I think, with a previous speaker, that the whole forces should work together, and we shall then have a greater future. I am satisfied that there can be no better policy than working in harmony, and that will be for the general good.

Mr. W. ROGERS (Northampton): I want to say that we have not got this matter under consideration. We have got it accomplished. We have had our town of Northampton mapped out in postal districts. I believe we have something like 90 registered workers. We hold meetings around the store, and our distributors take invitations and *Wheatsheafs* to each member living in that particular area. We have meetings about which we talk of the progress of the movement and aspirations of the future. We have women's and men's guilds, an educational committee, and a co-operative

choir, which rendered music at the meetings. I am satisfied that the work we are doing is educative.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York): With regard to the Co-operative Educational League, I should like to ask Mr. Rae when he replies to amplify the paragraph in the report. The more the agencies are created the better, so long as these are used and the movement benefits thereby. We are creating so many agencies—men's guilds, women's guilds, all sorts of study circles, and college journal circles. When this new educational league is formed, is there any hope that it may later on draw together all other agencies and thereby the movement will get the most benefit? I think eventually there will come a very great deal of good out of this league, and we shall have to discuss it the next twelve months. Can Mr. Rae tell us that there is anything more in his mind as to what may come out of the league than is contained in the paragraph printed in the report.

Mr. E. W. MUNDY (Bristol Printers): I should like to call attention to the work of the summer schools. In these schools we get all the different bodies brought home under one roof. It is there you get the best expression of the co-operative spirit. I should like to ask Mr. Rae in his answer to say something with regard to what is going to be done this year.

The GENERAL SECRETARY having made some announcements, the delegates adjourned for luncheon.

FIRST DAY OF CONGRESS.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

When the delegates reassembled after lunch, no time was lost in proceeding with the business of Congress.

Mr. W. T. TURNBULL (Dartford): Permit me, Mr Chairman, to congratulate the Central Education Committee on the work they are doing in affording an opportunity for managers to hear Professor Hall on business matters affecting the welfare of the movement. Having heard Professor Hall myself, I should like to emphasise the advantages derived from listening to expert lecturers. I also desire to appeal to general committees to give their managers facilities for attending these lectures, even to the extent of paying their expenses. The knowledge they will get will be a decided advantage to their societies, and give them a wider interest in the co-operative movement than what they can possibly derive from being behind the counter.

Mr. J. DAVIES (Pendleton): Relative to the Library at Holyoake House, Manchester, is it not possible to make it a proper library, so that whenever members come to Manchester they might make use of it?

Mr. W. R. RAE: I do not think that in any one year before has there been so little trouble in answering the questions. I do not remember a previous year when our good friends in the Congress have had so little to say in opposition to our report. Either I have to congratulate the committee on the success of their report or to regret the apathy of the members. I wonder which is true? With respect to the question of Mr. McCarthy that the committees should issue some suggestions or instructions giving kindly counsel as to the programmes arranged for social evenings. I have a great deal of sympathy with him. I have been expected on more than one occasion to make a co-operative speech to people still rocking with laughter at somebody's song about his fat and very much beloved sweetheart, or another who could not get out of the door of a restaurant after she had been stood a tea. After this I have been expected to speak on the benefits of co-operation. I notice in many parts that the committees are ceasing to put that kind of funny man on the programme. They have found that it is better to have a song which carries with it no twinge of shame—they find that we can laugh together by means of clean, honest fun, and no speaker is disturbed thereby. As regards the questions raised, Mr. Blakeborough has pointed out what was being considered by his society. Mr. Rogers riveted this in regard to Northampton. I am glad to learn that in many parts of the country men and women's guilds are really to be welded into one guild. Personally I see no earthly reason why there need be any men's and women's guilds but only a co-operative guild in each society. Mr. Anderson wanted one of the paragraphs amplified. It is dangerous to ask my mind about that paragraph—I might be pulled up by the Chairman. You heard and applauded this morning the teacher who told you that the National Union of Teachers were wise enough to appoint a Parliamentary Corresponding Secretary attached to every branch of the Union. In this Educational League we want to see co-operative enthusiasts in every part of the country. We are conversant with this fact that many co-operative enthusiasts through shyness, and probably through a want of experience, or through circumstances over which they have no control cannot link themselves with educational committees or committees of management. We hope to gather them in, and link them up with the centre by means of correspondence through their membership of the Educational League. By this method we hope to utilise every ounce of enthusiasm. The work we have to do calls for all the enthusiasm we can find amongst our members throughout the country. Mr. Rae continuing: Mr. Mundy has told us he is pleased with the summer schools. He has good reasons, for he has attended them. This year, owing to the war, and the railway restrictions, and that 50 per cent increase in fares which may become a hundred—we have determined to concentrate upon

one summer school. It is to be held within a few miles of Gloucester at a college that was once used for agricultural purposes. We hope this will be productive of good. If you are interested in summer schools, come and be taught. If you feel that you know more than the teachers, come and they will be pleased to learn at your feet. Everyone who has heard Professor Hall lecture to managers wants to hear him again. If his services are not placed at your disposal as readily as you would like, do not forget that he is only one man and has only one life, and that we do not want to lose him by overworking him. If we overwork him he will be only a memory and not a life. We are asked if we can make the library more available for members. You may carry the library away with you if you will leave a name and address behind you. We have lost no books by trusting our members, and our library, whether it be in the book-box or in Holyoake House, will be at the disposal of the members.

RUSSIAN DELEGATION LEAVES.

At this stage the PRESIDENT announced that the Russian friends were desirous of leaving and wished to say "Good-bye!"

Mr. S. HERMER, who spoke in English, said: I am sorry to intrude upon the proceedings; but I wish to say, on behalf of my friends and myself, that we are all very thankful for the reception we have met with here. The words spoken with reference to Russia in this Congress will be greatly appreciated by our friends in Russia itself, and will inspire them with new energy, courage, and hope. I wish to say also that it may be possible to hold an International Congress in Russia. I do not see why it should not be possible; and I take this opportunity of inviting you to send to Russia as many delegates as you possibly can. They will not be disappointed and they will have done something by coming. Good-bye!

The Russian delegates shook hands with the President and others near him, and they left the Congress with the cheers of the risen delegates ringing in their ears.

INTERESTING VISITOR FROM FRANCE.

The PRESIDENT then remarked that M. Cleuet, the representative of the co-operators of France, had now arrived and would address the Congress. The announcement was the signal for another remarkable demonstration of enthusiasm and M. Cleuet, standing on the platform, faced an audience that had risen to cheer with fervour and affection. The strains of the organ caused the cheers to subside and the delegates joined in singing "La Marseillaise"; at the close of which the cheering was again renewed and M. Cleuet, clad in uniform of a lieutenant of artillery, bowed his deep acknowledgments.

M. CLEUET, whose speech was summarised by Mr. H. J. May (secretary, International Co-operative Alliance), said: Mr. President, ladies and gentle-

men, fellow-co-operators :—I am appointed by all the co-operative societies of France, as their representative at your annual Congress, and to bring you their sincere greetings and best wishes for its success.

In France, our eyes are constantly fixed on your admirable co-operative movement. Our efforts tend to imitate you, and we know, moreover, that encouragement from your side is never lacking. Quite recently we have had proof of this in the completion of an agreement between your Co-operative Wholesale Society and our own. In my position as a director of the French Wholesale Society, I have been able to judge with what disinterestedness and sympathy the Co-operative Wholesale Society acted in that matter.

It is therefore a great honour for me to find myself amongst you once again, and an extreme pleasure to see on this platform most of the active workers in your movement whom I met at your Congress at Aberdeen in 1913. Since that time many events have transpired to trouble us.

In France the co-operative movement did not escape the destructive effects of the first few months of the war, which also fell heavily upon all our industrial and commercial concerns. Little by little, however, our co-operative societies have taken up again their pre-war activities. Generally speaking, our trade has increased and our field of operations has been widely extended.

In Paris the movement has made considerable progress. The public authorities have asked for our assistance in the solution of various aspects of the problems of provisioning the people. I have the pleasure to testify that our movement has been able to accomplish the task, and has rendered signal service to the whole country.

The trade of our societies is increasing everywhere, and the Co-operative Wholesale Society has this year doubled its sales to the societies in membership with it.

The French Government and Parliament, having become so fully conscious of the great services which the co-operative movement has been called upon to perform in the interests of the population, have recently voted and promulgated a special law with regard to the working of our societies. This law gives us complete satisfaction, providing us with a legal status, which is of the greatest importance to the future of our movement.

Nevertheless, fellow-co-operators, I cannot conclude my short address without dwelling briefly on what casts a shadow over the optimistic statement which I have just made. I refer to the hundreds of societies in the invaded districts. In what condition shall we find them after the enemy has been thrust out of French territory? Considering the intensity of the struggle, the formidable artillery duels, and in particular the spirit of systematic destruction by which the enemy is animated, we cannot hope to find intact any of the numerous societies situated in the north and east of our country. It is true the French Government has undertaken to compensate for losses incurred, and to reconstruct the districts in question.

However, State action may be slow, indeed it is sure to be, for it is difficult to quickly step over administrative formalities, and avoid the invariably lengthy procedure involved in ascertaining the extent of the damage sustained.

Capitalistic firms for the supply of provisions, and the large stores, are in a better position than the co-operative societies for re-establishing the activity of their enterprises, since they have reserves and other financial means at their disposal which the co-operative societies have not. If we are not in a position to re-establish our stores, as soon as possible, we shall for many years be in an inferior position compared with that of private traders. We are preparing an organisation for the purpose of assisting our societies in the invaded districts, as soon as more favourable circumstances permit us to do so. We are doing our utmost in order that our unfortunate societies may emerge from the ruins, and are also preparing to establish new societies in place of those which have been destroyed. We invite our fellow-co-operators in all the Allied countries to take part in this great work of co-operative solidarity, and we are convinced that the cries of distress and hope raised by co-operators in the invaded areas will be heard by all. The International Co-operative Movement will never have a similar opportunity of affirming its ideal.

Long live British Co-operation !

Long live French Co-operation !

Long live International Co-operation.

EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

The CHAIRMAN : Mr Rae will now move a resolution regarding educational reconstruction,

Mr. RAE : You will see from your programme that Mr. Clayton should have moved this resolution. You may therefore be wondering why the Chairman has called upon me to submit it to you. At the time the resolution was decided on there was a doubt as to whether I should be able to face this audience, on account of the pressure of other duties, and Mr. Clayton offered to take my place. With even greater kindness and courtesy, Mr. Clayton, when he knew I should be able to be here, withdrew, and for these acts of kindness and courtesy on his part, I thank him. The resolution I have to propose (proceeded Mr. Rae) is as follows :—

That this Congress, convinced of the important contribution which a satisfactory system of education can make to the welfare of the nation, and dissatisfied with the present scope and organisation of education in the United Kingdom, demands a reorganisation of education on lines that will facilitate the fuller development of the childhood, manhood, and womanhood of the nation ; and in particular insists :—(1) That the present half-time system be abolished, all exemptions below the age of fourteen discontinued, the leaving age at the close

of the war being raised to fifteen. (2) That continued education be compulsory up to the age of eighteen, free from specialised craft education. (3) That maintenance grants for students be provided where necessary. (4) That the Government take such steps as are necessary to enable qualified candidates to pass to the Universities unhindered by consideration of expense. (5) That recognition be given to the importance of the teacher's personality in education by raising the status and increasing the salaries of teachers, to provide them with adequate reward for their services, and as a means of attracting and retaining in the service of education the men and women best fitted for the teaching profession.

I have every confidence that you will pass this resolution with acclamation. You will notice that it consists of a definite statement that in your and our opinion education is an important contributor to the welfare of the nation, and by adopting it we shall show that we are determined not to submit in the future to many of the things which have been foisted on us in the way of education in the past. The resolution says we are dissatisfied with the present scope and organisation of education in the United Kingdom. Why do we as teachers and why do you as parents say there is reason for dissatisfaction with the education given to our children in the schools at the present time? Because we know perfectly well that it is a false conception of the meaning of education, and we have no desire for its prolongation. We demand reorganisation. Why? Because the other day the gentleman into whose hands the matter has been entrusted told us clearly that the working classes will receive just as much education as they ask for. He knows perfectly well the difficulty which lies in front of him and while he has the wish to improve matters, he must be backed up by a determined desire on the part of parents to have these matters put right. Therefore we are passing from the stage of urging and asking and are reaching the stage of demanding and insisting, for we recognise that while we are urging and asking, our children are growing past their school years. They have only one youth, which, when spent, cannot be gone through a second time. We must have reorganisation in our educational system at once, or we shall not gain those things which will be most beneficial to the youth of our day and generation. We desire—and we say so in our resolution—that half-time shall be abolished. I have been in the districts where half-time is considered wise, and I have sometimes thought that the narrowness both of back and brain observable in those districts is attributable to the half-time system. I do not know, I may be wrong, but at some of the co-operative meetings I have addressed in those districts I formed the impression that half-time legislation did not seem to have produced in my audience the same brawny, big, burly, breezy humanity that I was accustomed to in the north country where the half-time system does not exist. I cannot see for the life of me how it is possible for a laddie to work from five

o'clock to twelve o'clock in the morning, and then do anything like justice to himself or his lessons from one o'clock to four o'clock in the afternoon in the elementary schools. We also ask in our resolution that compulsory education shall be continued up to eighteen years of age on the half-time principle or otherwise as may be found most suitable, and we want it to be freed from specialised craft education. Further, that promising youths whose financial resources are not of the best shall be helped by means of maintenance grants to complete their studies. Is there anybody in this Congress who will dare to say that there may not be a Lloyd George or an Asquith amongst our elementary school children? We also urge that the future of our children shall not be determined until they have given some indication of their natural bent. We want—and this is my last word—the universities to be no longer the playground for the sons of the rich, but the studyground for all the capable sons of the nation.

Mr. W. CLAYTON (Co-operative Wholesale Society): I think that they have asked me to second this as I gave place to Mr. Rae in moving this resolution. I am only going formally to second the resolution, and to say that the thing which inspires me to support a resolution of this kind is that it will enable the next generation to take a larger share in the social life of the community, and enable them to appropriate more of the good things of life. I have pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Mr. S. W. MOULE (Stratford): I want to say that the proposals are on the right lines, although not definite enough in some particulars. In the first place you want to discontinue half-timers. I agree with that right down to the ground, and the sooner it comes about the better. You say that after the war you want to make the leaving age up to 15—that I agree with. I should like to ask Mr. Rae and his committee whether they have taken into consideration the position of the movement with regard to keeping the children at school until they are that age. In our district we have a secondary school, and we have the experiences of poor parents whose children have the ability to become better men than Lloyd George. What is the position? The docker's child has the ability, but the parents have not the money to keep it at school. We approached the Educational Committee and said: "You will have to give these children something in order that the parents may retain them at school until the age of 15." The outcome of it was that boys and girls get a bursary from the Educational Committee, which enabled the children to be kept at school instead of a number of them being withdrawn as in the past. I would suggest that if we want to see boys and girls kept at school we must make some provision for them. I agree that we should keep them out of the labour market in order that better wages should be obtained. The next paragraph which stated that we should keep scholars until 18 to continue their education was very indefinite indeed. A few weeks ago I attended a conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, organised by the Workers' Educational Association. The conference was attended by 703 delegates from all over the country.

A somewhat similar proposal was brought forward but more definite. Up to the age of 18 it was proposed that the child should work not more than 25 hours per week and give not more than 20 hours to education. Here you make him work 50 hours a week, and also send him to school. What can he learn? In the next paragraph you state that maintenance grants should be provided for students "where necessary." Who is going to decide whether a grant is necessary? A moderate council or moderate educational committee—would they grant anything? A member would say: "No; let him go to work—I want him in my shop." I never saw such a ridiculous thing! The next paragraph dealt with the teachers, salaries. Whose fault was it that they did not get better remuneration? Their own. Why do not they be men and come into the trade union movement, and join us at the Trade Union Congress? You have two or three members in Parliament always asking the Government for more money. If you come out and help the workers you will help yourselves?

Mr. E. BRENNAN (Darlington): I am strongly convinced that a revolution in the educational system is long overdue. I want this Congress to speak out in a determined manner on this subject. There is no doubt that a lot of parents looked with disfavour upon sending their children to school till they are eighteen years of age; but they do not look at the fact that sending them away from school early simply means sending them into the labour market to reduce wages. I want to know if this proposal means a system that will continue evening schools. Take boys who attend classes in the evening till ten o'clock; they have three or four miles to go home and get there at 11-30; they are up again at five o'clock in the morning. These boys cannot do with that. The trade unions and co-operative societies should not only claim Parliamentary representation; but, in my opinion, they should see that they get representation on the local administrative bodies and on the education committees. We should see that a boy who attends school in the evening does not start work before nine in the morning. We are going to see that our boys get a better education.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Burnley): My three colleagues come from a weaving centre where there are 127,000 looms and where half-timing is prevalent. We decided unanimously to support this proposal to abolish half-time. Our difficulty is with regard to the proposal to make fifteen years the leaving age; but it would be a great advantage to abolish half-timing and therefore we come to support these proposals. It will be for the Workers' Educational League to consider the position afterwards. I maintain that the physical condition of the child should be looked after as well as its mental condition. When I tell you that there are hundreds of poor children that have to go to school without breakfast I think you will agree that it is the duty of the education authorities to provide them with meals. If the parent cannot give them food, the Government or the municipality should; and it is no good trying to teach them unless they are fed. I agree with our friend that it is up to the teachers' organisations

to get the wages of the teachers raised. We, in the Engineers, look after our own wages, and if we as engineers can do that the teaching profession should be able to do it.

Mr. D. MCCARTHY (Leicester): I wish to move the deletion, in paragraph 3, of the words "where necessary."

The PRESIDENT: You are out of order in proposing any amendment now. The time for that is past.

A FAMINE IN TEACHERS.

Mr. A. MANSBRIDGE (Permanent Building Society) was warmly applauded on rising to take part in the discussion. He said: I hope we shall pass this resolution without any reservation at all; although I agree that some of us will not be completely satisfied with it. For my part I see an evil which is a tragedy as great as the tragedy of the half-timer; and that is the tragedy of employing children during the years of their attendance at school. In one Midland town one employer had a boy for seventy hours per week. I feel sure that the Central Education Committee will, next year, give us a new edition of this resolution because the educational discussions up and down the country will help us to strengthen our demands and define them more particularly. Why do we want this resolution? We want it because we are determined that the day of privilege in education shall be for ever over; and when the day of privilege in education is over, the day of privilege in the State will be over. The only way to help the movement is to send into the community completely educated boys and girls. I plead for equality of educational opportunity so that we may have "the right man at the right work"; and that is the motive of my preaching. I do not care to preach that in a Co-operative Congress, because we are all pretty much agreed with it; but I speak sometimes in a town hall full of "fur and feathers; and I tell these people: "If your sons have the capacity to be navvies, for God's sake let them be navvies." We were going to be faced with a famine in teachers. We will want 5,000 teachers to raise the school age and to abolish half-time; and if we want to have compulsory continuation classes and other improvements we will want 30,000 teachers. If your boy or girl shows a desire to become a teacher; make your little sacrifice and let them become teachers. Increase the status of the teachers and you will let them spend an honourable old age. If there are co-operators with the capacity to teach, let them offer themselves as teachers when the evening school chance comes along. If citizenship is to be taught, let co-operators teach it as much as possible. It is not by passing resolutions but by putting our own flesh and blood into it that we will carry this business through. We have to sacrifice ourselves; we must sacrifice ourselves, because some men and women are sending their children to the secondary school; but let us not wait for the State, but of our own sacrifice let us make our own contribution to the education of the people and then no one will be able to smile at the resolution which declares that we must have a high-way of education, leading to the universities, which all may travel.

Mr. J. C. SIMM (St. Helens): What is the real meaning of paragraph 3 in the resolution? I agree with the principle of raising the age to fifteen to enable the child to become an efficient citizen, and to turn out and take an intelligent part in the affairs of the country. But I also believe there are thousands of working men getting very small wages, with large families, and struggling to make ends meet. Thus it might be at the expense of the older children that the young one is kept at school till he reaches fifteen, and at a time when the family has been looking forward to a little relief which would make the difference between living and starvation. We ought to press that the Government should stand by with a maintenance grant, and that it should be specially applied in cases such as I have referred to.

Mr. P. MALCOLM (Kilmarnock): We believe in education, and I want to throw out a hint to the Education Committee and to my English friends generally. It is, institute school boards and get rid of your educational committees. There is not a Scotsman in this building but what is in absolute sympathy with the resolution. The matter lies in the hands of the parents themselves. If the Government can spend seven million a day on a war it can spend seven million a year in helping the parents of the children of the country so far as their education is concerned. We in Scotland do not believe in evening schools at all. The children do not get educated and it is a waste of money. You have made little progress, and will not make progress until education is in the hands of the people instead of being controlled by Oxford and Cambridge dons. If that were the case such a resolution as this would never have been required. Germany is leading the way in education, and we must follow her methods if we wish to become an intelligent nation. (Cries of "No, no," and expressions of disapproval greeted the speaker's reference to Germany).

Mr. W. M. ROGERSON (Walkden): I have been going to meetings last winter on behalf of the Workers' Educational Association. I regret that after going to these meetings I have to come to a Co-operative Congress and come down to resolutions not in harmony with the proposals dealt with at the Workers' Educational Association meetings. In the discussion which has taken place this afternoon on the resolution one would think that Lancashire was the only sinner from the half-time point of view. In every city and town in the United Kingdom you have thousands and thousands of half-timers, getting up at 5 and 6 in the morning, selling newspapers, and doing the same in the evening. In fact they were doing more harm than if they were inside a workshop. I am the chairman of an Urban District Council, and I want to tell you something which we have to contend with. We have men who have gone to the war, and some have been killed in the war, leaving a widow and children. Only the last meeting I attended we had a mother who came forward and asked us to give permission for Mary to go to the mill as they cannot make ends meet with the allowance made by the Government. That is not an exceptional case—that can be multiplied by hundreds and thousands. The position is this:

Until we, as co-operators, take the position in our own hands and get our men on committees and into the House of Commons then we shall make no progress. We do not deserve to make any progress.

Mr. W. R. RAE : With regard to paragraph 3 I should include every possible financial assistance that is necessary for any deserving child under 14 or 15, to enable him to rise where his brains would permit him to go. I cannot follow Mr. Moule's attitude towards the teachers. He does not follow it himself. He asks the teachers to do something, and if they followed his advice they would lose their jobs.

Mr. MOULE : No, no.

Mr. RAE : Then I beg your pardon. I understood what you said was that they should come out as trade-unionists, and that by helping trade-unionists they would help themselves. The danger of a teacher declaring himself a trade-unionist was that we allow the wrong men on educational authorities. By declaring himself a trade-unionist the teacher would be forced under the harrow.

Mr. MOULE : This does not apply to towns, sir.

Mr. RAE : It applies even to some towns. When you do your duty as electors, as fathers and mothers, when you put the right men in the place of authority I guarantee that the teacher may be left to exercise the influence you desire him to have. I was glad to hear Mr. Blakeborough, of Burnley, strike the right note in saying that there was no desire to create undue difficulty with regard to the half-timer. With regard to the question raised by Mr. McCarthy, we will undertake to explain clearly in the paper sent out to the societies in order that it is clearly understood that no taint of pauperism is intended towards anybody. Mr. Simm asked as to the age of students—this refers to every learner from 10 to 70. Mr. Malcolm wanted the voice of Scotland heard, but we must not have only Scotsmen here. The voice of Scotland is being heard. I was born further north than he. If being far north gives one wisdom, indisputably the voice of Scotland has a good effect. Mr. Rogerson had spoken of boys selling newspapers. I advise him to get the regulation badge carried into effect as a temporary expedient from the difficulty. The present time is difficult. We have been hoodwinking about the bairns doing men's work. They are doing, as Mr. Mansbridge has pointed out, men's work before and after school, and they come to school as little children. We have acquiesced with reluctance because of the war, but for heaven's sake do not allow it to continue one moment longer than national necessity required.

The resolution was then unanimously carried.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE.

(See Report 21, page 130).

Mr. G. R. NAISH (Twerton) : I may be repeating something which I believe I have said before in the presence of Mr. Rae, but I want to know, sir, whether it is not possible for the publications department of the

Co-operative Union to give us some co-operative maps. It is quite probable that the Wholesale Society's publicity department will get ahead of you and do this thing themselves. We want two maps, one for the Co-operative Union, and one for the Wholesale Society. You may not be able to print the maps until the war is over, but you can be considering the suggestion and thinking out ways and means of putting it into operation.

Mr. H. DICKINSON (Nottingham): I rise to suggest that the Publications Committee might widen the scope of their operations a little bit, and take in the books and pamphlets of the Workers' Educational Association. At the present moment they only appear to cater for co-operators. There are other people to whom we shall have to appeal very soon. There are the trade-unionists for instance, and there are certain books which they will demand. We appear to be concentrating all our efforts on those people who are inside the movement, but I venture to suggest that outsiders are worthy of our consideration. I have used to advantage books dealing with the social life of England, and I think the Publications Committee might consider the advisability of publishing books of that nature. We want to do something to spread abroad that spirit of divine discontent which makes men dissatisfied with the conditions under which their fathers worked and under which they will work unless they do something to emancipate themselves.

Mr. RAE, replying to the discussion, said: I am not very particular whether co-operative maps are produced by the Wholesale Society or by the Co-operative Union. The chief point with me is getting the maps produced. I can, however, say that the Publications Committee have not lost sight of the matter, and that they have a fairly long list of wall illustrations under consideration at the present time. I am afraid Mr. Dickinson hardly understands the position of the Publications Committee. We only intend publishing books which we cannot get from any other friendly source. We have no desire to be publishing, ever publishing, mainly for the sake of publishing. So far as the Workers' Educational Association books and pamphlets are concerned, we have them on our list; and if Mr. Dickinson wants to add to his list of books there is "From Serf to Ruler" (published by Collins). His boys will be all the more imbued with the desire for national freedom by the use of it.

JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(See Report 22, page 135).

Mr. G. WOODHOUSE (Wholesale Society and member of the Joint Propaganda Committee): I ask your acceptance of the Propaganda Committee's report. The policy pursued by the Propaganda Committee during the past twelve months has been pretty much on the same lines as previous years. It has been an effective policy, and it has brought about a great deal of success to the movement. Still, while they have pursued the same policy, the activities of the Propaganda Committee have been very much greater

and more strenuous in the country villages. From the last paragraph in the report you will see that canvassers have visited about forty places during the year, but as the places are enumerated in the report I will not trouble to read them over. It is more than likely that there will be a fuller development of our activities in the future, and the movement will want it too. We are threatened with a good many things just now. There is heavy taxation, and there is the tremendous price we have to pay for food at the present time. We shall want all the energy, assistance, and enthusiasm you can give us, but I have no fear, if you do rally round us. If we all stand shoulder to shoulder, we shall pull through these difficult times.

The report was adopted.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

(See Report 23, page 137).

The GENERAL SECRETARY explained that Mr. T. W. Allen would propose the report as a whole, exclusive of the part dealing with Direct Representation in Parliament, Excess Profits Duty, Income Tax, &c., which would be dealt with afterwards. It had been further arranged not to discuss the part dealing with Direct Representation that afternoon, but to allow societies that have sent in resolutions an opportunity of consulting in order to see if they could not come to some common resolution to meet the case. The movers and seconders of these resolutions were asked to meet in the Standing Orders Committee room.

Mr. T. W. ALLEN (Co-operative Wholesale Society), moving the adoption of the report said: The Parliamentary Committee have had their busiest year. We may have earned, but we are not seeking, repose, notwithstanding the suggestion I see from a certain quarter that we might be deposed in favour of a committee of expert officials with a permanent K.C. at their head. Whatever happens to the Parliamentary Committee, I hope we may be saved from lawyers, especially a permanent one, unless he be one of the Sharples type. Last year we were told to give a lead to Congress. This year we are told that we have not only given a lead but that we have taken a leap and that our conclusions do not represent the aspirations of the noblest, or reflect the best sense of the wisest co-operators. We always do well to pay tradition reverence; but let us not despise a faith that is without prejudices. There is never any safety in holding to illogical opinion; and the co-operative movement is the sanest and soundest of all democratic organisations and its most valuable asset is its sound common sense. We may be sure of this—that, while sensible men go on reforming their opinions all their lives—should the Parliamentary Committee, or any other committee, attempt to thrust an illogical resolution upon the co-operative movement, sanity will quickly laugh it out of the programme. All the subjects arising out of the report this year are most vital, and upon some of them the life of the movement will depend. Form QI—that subtle production of the official mind—has had its quietus so far as doing any damage to

the movement is concerned. On the question of supplies, the Government has acknowledged the services rendered; and where we have not done more to help it is because our movement has been denied the power of helping. Failure to recognise and adequately use this great consumers' organisation has been a great national blunder. We have heard how, abroad, the Government organisations have been harnessed to co-operative uses. In Great Britain we are not considered even a war-time necessity. Again and again we have argued and justified our claims to serve the State and the community; but in many high departments of State control the very name of "co-operator" is anathema. Government departments, themselves wandering in the valley of indecision and needing guidance and central organisations, have taken the bit between their teeth and kept us out. It may be a humbling thought to us; but commissions do not want us, and Governments will not have us until in some way or other we make ourselves articulate. While State authorities have kept us out with whips, military tribunals have beaten us with scorpions. Nothing could be more despicable than the behaviour of some of these petty Caesars dressed in their brief hour of Government authority. They have made these tribunals veritable places of tribulation, castigating the co-operative movement as though in existence for that purpose. The co-operative employé has been prejudiced because his society did not pay income tax. We have been told through these tribunals that the country does not want co-operative stores; and we have learned from the military tribunals, at least this lesson—that the only idea some people have of burying the hatchet is to sink it deeply into an opponent's head. Sugar has not been a sweet subject to handle. Our efforts to rectify inequalities in distribution have not proved unfruitful; and about a hundred areas received supplies based on the augmented population. The Government purchase of sugar was an important departure in State control; but the initial blunder was that in taking in hand to organise the power of supply they did nothing to organise the power of demand. That mistake had been repeated in every attempt to deal with the food problem, and no system of food control was of the slightest value in this country unless those who have it in hand take also a vigorous hand in controlling prices. Co-operative societies, with their increased membership, have found the Government unable to deliver the goods. Then again, we have been told to economise, and waste had been made a penal offence. Is it too much to ask that the Government itself shall not allow waste in the brewers' vats until, at least, the minimum of necessity is made available for the children's table? In submitting this report I purposely omit all reference to certain resolutions which, it has been explained by the General Secretary, will be separately moved. I would, however, ask you to read and take to heart paragraph 3 on page 137 of the Central Board's report, dealing with the general position. We are told here that the co-operative movement carries little weight at the present time and that, in the things that matter to-day, our influence is practically

nil. The point I wish to raise is: Are we content to have it so? ("No!") If not, let us evolve clear views as to the action to be taken. It is scarcely believable that those in authority who do not take the trouble to understand us are the people to point out a new path to better social conditions. The less prattling we have about new worlds after the war the better. We are not making a new world in the sense in which co-operators understand it; we are not making even a new Commonwealth. We have all our work cut out in saving the Commonwealth we have from absolute destruction. Ours is a growing domestic republic; ours to see that we save it, much less perfect it; to see that we use it and appreciate it; and we must apply ourselves to our effort unitedly and coherently. Diffusion alone can mar the history now in the making.

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial): I appreciate fully Mr. Allen's, reference to me and his recognition that it is possible for a child of the land to be a good co-operator. We have reason to know that the work being put in by societies is having its effect in the proper quarter. There is, however, a very important expression in the report to which I desire to draw attention. It is where it says that the Government are seeking not to tax excess profits, but excess prices. The inference is that we as co-operators are charging excess prices. It ought to be corrected, because of the advantage which will be taken of the expression when it gets into the hands of those unscrupulous people who are always ready to injure the movement regardless to the weapons they use.

Mr. R. PARDOE (Stratford): I think the work of the Parliamentary Committee on this matter has been a complete failure. We should take some stronger attitude towards the people at the head of affairs. The Parliamentary Committee should see that co-operators as a body have their side of the question more firmly and fully handled than had been the case during the past twelve months. If, as I say here this afternoon, if the Parliamentary Committee in their official capacity have been treated in such a scant way by the powers that be, I do not wonder why individual committees have been pushed at one side. We are entitled to better treatment than he have had, and we must let them see that we are determined to have it.

Mr. J. EDWARDS (Afan Valley): In the second paragraph it is stated "As the tax is intended not so much to raise revenue as to prevent profiteering." If such is true the excess profit duty is an inducement to go on exploiting the people.

The PRESIDENT: The question of the excess profits duty will come up in a resolution later on.

Mr. G. M. WILSON (Kinning Park): The report states that a large number of societies have not been affected by the Excess Profits Tax. It would be much more useful if we had the information as to the number of societies affected, and the amount of money which had to be paid in this tax.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : We do not want to deal with this question of excess profits until Mr. May has dealt with the subject.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. H. J. MAY (secretary to Joint Parliamentary Committee) : The resolution I have to move on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee is printed on page 150, and is as follows :—

That this Congress whilst recognising the present necessity for a special tax on excess profits arising from, or made possible by the war conditions, has observed with concern that the tax as levied on Co-operative Societies has in its incidence produced serious anomalies and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. It therefore urges upon the Government the desirability of effecting such amendments of the Finance Acts as will secure a more equitable distribution of the burden of the tax.

The resolution divides itself easily into three parts. First, it recognised the necessity of a tax of this character on commercial operations generally to prevent profiteering during the war.

A DELEGATE : It does not prevent it.

Mr. MAY : To penalise profiteering, if you prefer it. There is little doubt whatever that it has had the effect in some cases in preventing a certain amount of profiteering. At all events that is the object. I think it is uncontroversial that on that ground alone the tax was originally put forward. That necessity is affirmed in this resolution, because we desire in the latter part of the resolution to obtain for co-operative societies some amelioration of the incidence of the tax. The Parliamentary Committee feel that it would be hypocritical to deny what the movement generally did before the introduction of the excess profits duty in demanding that the Government should impose such a tax. Up to the present they have maintained in organisations and various places the demand that the Government should tax excess profits arising from the war. It is necessary to recognise the necessity of this tax in some form. The second part of the resolution declared in clear and unmistakable terms that this tax has in its incidence produced serious anomalies, and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. I am not going to use any time to illustrate to this Congress what every delegate must know clearly. The tax is imposed upon co-operative societies based not even upon the excess surpluses of societies or members obtained, but in fact is imposed on increased prices which are charged as a result of the increase in the cost of commodities. In other words, instead of making a profit we are actually making a loss, because by the balance sheets and reports we are obliged to show what was really a fictitious increase on which we are mulcted in excess profits duty. This was one of the anomalies put on the movement. The Parliamentary Committee, from the moment they realised this, have not hesitated to take every means to bring that inequality, anomaly,

and injustice to the authorities and to anyone who could help them to secure an alteration of its incidence. It is useless to go back over the whole story, and to discuss the rights and wrongs of the original imposition of the tax. What we have to face is the situation as it has developed in a way that none of us imagined, and I venture to think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer never foresaw about the time the tax was imposed. We ask him now to recognise that the circumstances of the war have changed altogether the character of this tax, especially in its application to co-operative societies and to give the relief which the resolution asks for. We say that this is a consistent position—it is consistent with the action which the Parliamentary Committee has taken—and with that of every working-class organisation which at the beginning of the war advocated that an excess profits duty in some form or other should be imposed on the commercial transactions of this country. The third part of the resolution demands a more equitable distribution of the burden of the tax. There was an amendment to be proposed to this. Whilst the Parliamentary Committee's resolution asks for a readjustment of the incidence of the tax in a more equitable manner, the amendment proposed asked for a removal of the tax from co-operative societies. The Parliamentary Committee is willing to go all the way with every member of Congress to secure that object if they believed it possible of attainment. They have been specially appointed to deal with this matter, and to use every possible source of information and representation at their command. We have reached a stage where we have to choose between endeavouring to secure something of advantage to our societies or standing upon a pedestal declaring their convictions, and in all probability having to be satisfied without getting anything. We might as well ask for the moon as hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will remove co-operative societies entirely from the incidence of the tax, and I am convinced that the friends we have in Parliament will not support any such proposal. But there is reason for believing they will heartily support a proposal for bringing before the House and the Chancellor the necessity of rearranging the incidence of the tax, so that it might be more equitably imposed, not only upon their societies, but upon others which are hardly hit by the present methods of imposing the tax.

Mr. J. S. GAMBLE (Glasgow Eastern): Whatever differences there may be it will be as well for this Congress and all co-operators to recognise, as practical men, the fact that the tax cannot be removed. Have we considered that point sufficiently? All that I ask is that we, as co-operators, shall at this time demonstrate our common sense, and realise that the Parliamentary Committee have done their very best possible for the movement under present circumstances. I know where the voice of Scotland has been on this matter, but I am perfectly satisfied that we are entirely on wrong lines, and that all that can be accomplished at the present time is to see that the incidence of the tax is made as equitable as possible. We ought to recognise that the Government at the present time has a purpose

to serve, which I think deserves our best consideration and financial support. In assisting the Government now we have nothing to lose, and in supporting the proposals of the Parliamentary Committee, as against the amendment submitted by the Central Board, we have everything to gain.

CENTRAL BOARD AMENDMENT.

Mr. W. H. WATKINS (South-Western Section): The amendment having been adopted by the Central Board I have been requested by the Standing Orders Committee to submit it for your acceptance. The amendment reads as follows:—

That this Congress, whilst recognising the present necessity for a special tax on excess profits arising from, or made possible by, the war conditions, indignantly protests against the tax being levied on co-operative societies, as such societies do not make profits, and cannot, therefore, make excess profits; and the imposition upon them of this tax has produced serious anomalies and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. This Congress therefore urges upon the Government the desirability of effecting such amendments to the Finance Acts as will remove from co-operative societies the intolerable burden of this tax.

I should point out, however, that at the suggestion of the Royal Arsenal Society the Central Board has withdrawn the word "intolerable," and substituted the word "unjust." I hope this Congress, if it is going to be divided on this question, will divide itself into two classes only, those who are in favour of the application of the excess profits tax to co-operative societies and those who are not. In moving the resolution may I rightly (I think) point out what may be termed the genesis of the tax. It was an attempt—and a weak attempt, as it resulted—on the part of the Government to get back from the people who spoiled their fellows some of the spoil for the use of the community. That, I believe, was the reason why excess profits and the tax on excess profits were dealt with in the financial measure submitted to the House of Commons on 23rd December, 1915. It is said that we as co-operators were brought under the tax because we made excess profits, and yet for years—longer at any rate than I can remember—we have been telling Parliament and the people that we existed as a movement not to make profit, but to eliminate the profit-maker. The inconsistency, the absurdity, the grotesque absurdity, of the whole situation is more than I can point out to you in words. You all realise for yourselves the anomaly of the position. We are the only people in this country who do not want profits, who are united to do away with profits, and yet in Parliament we are placed in the same category with those people who were making huge profits before the war and who have made greater profits since the beginning of the war. I wonder we can sit here and consider the situation. We must be a patient people. Somebody has asked how have co-operative societies been mulcted by this injustice. We have not complete returns,

but we do know that the Co-operative Wholesale Society has set aside a fund approaching one-third of a million sterling for its share of the duty. We also know, although the returns are somewhat incomplete, that 151 societies in the first year of the war paid approximately a quarter of a million, and for the second year 181 societies were mulcted and have paid, I believe, an amount equal to another third of a million. It will therefore be seen that so far as can now be estimated the Wholesale Society and other societies have paid or have to pay something like a million pounds sterling to the Government on account of the Excess Profits Duty. At Plymouth we have been asked to pay £14,500 for the first year, and £25,000 for the second, making a total of £40,000 for Plymouth Society, which consists mainly of dockyard workers and artisans' wives, and families of men in the army and navy, and of many widows of those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country. They are going to claim £40,000 of what? Excess profits, ladies and gentlemen! The situation is ridiculous. Well, gentlemen, it is ridiculous. I move the amendment because I feel that in the amendment there is some kind of co-operative backbone, and I suggest to you that the original resolution lacks that. It would not indicate to our fellow-members throughout the country that we are really in earnest in our opposition to this iniquitous imposition.

Mr. G. WILSON (Scottish Section) seconded the amendment. He said: Despite the fact of what has been said, I claim that the voice of Scotland is unanimous on this question. Had that not been so, your humble servant would not have seconded this amendment. We claim that the application of this tax to co-operative societies is wrong in principle, and what we believe to be wrong in principle, we say cannot be right in its application otherwise. We believe that this tax should not have been imposed upon co-operative societies. With all due respect to Mr. May and the case he had made out, we claim that the tax has had a most detrimental effect. Before leaving Scotland he had a balance sheet put into his hands of a society which was almost on the borders of disaster because of the application of the Excess Profits Tax to co-operative societies. It was a practical illustration of the gross injustice of the tax, and on such grounds the delegates should pass this amendment to-day. The tax is not imposed on any other part of the community. After 80 per cent is deducted, the ordinary trader is still in a position to pocket 20 per cent of an increase in profit. We are not in such a position in the co-operative movement. We are not only asked to pay the tax on our incomes, but an excess profits tax on the expenditure of that income in the interests of our homes. I have pleasure in seconding the amendment.

Mr. J. EDWARDS (Afan Valley): Our opponents have won in the first two rounds. Seeing they have been so successful, they have now got a promise from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to appoint a Commission to go into the whole question of co-operators and income tax. I think Mr. May told us the truth when he stated that when this question was intro-

duced none of them ever imagined what its operations were going to be. That was the perfect truth. I do not make any accusation against the Parliamentary Committee. I think they were imbued too much with a spirit of super-patriotism. This Excess Profits Tax might have been imposed for the purpose of penalising certain people. I want to take exception to a sentence in the report which is to the effect that the tax is intended not so much to raise revenue as to prevent profiteering. Mr. Asquith has said that it is for the purpose of raising revenue, and allowing the capitalists of the country to collect capital for the reconstruction of industry after the war. Apart from all that the incidence to-day shows that this tax is mainly for the purpose of raising revenue. Mr. Bonar Law's estimate was exceeded by 53 millions. They do not tell us that the profiteers are making 93 millions of excess profits after the tax has been deducted. The tax is a real inducement to profiteering and exploitation. If the Government want to put a stop to profiteering why do not they take 100 per cent.

Mr. J. H. HARTLEY (York): I cannot accept it, in the way in which Mr. May appears to accept it, that the Excess Profits Tax is a war tax levied for war purposes. It is not anything of the kind. It is a well thought-out tax intended seriously to injure co-operators. They are the only people injured by it. The profiteers in ordinary industries pocketed ninety-three (93) millions last year. Is anyone simple enough to believe that if a tax enables them to put 93 millions in their pockets they are going to stop it? It is nonsense. The only thing that will have any effect upon these profiteers will be to tax them 100 per cent. Take the figures for last year. They are colossal—139 millions paid to the Government, and 93 millions retained by the profiteers! A total of 233 millions of excess profits in one year! How does this arise? What is it in reality? It is an indirect tax placed upon the consuming public by a man who had not the courage to place it there in a direct form. It is up to the people of this country to say to the Chancellor of the Exchequer: Whatever money you want in the future you must tell us what it is you want and what you want it for. Then we will be able to say whether we will pay or not pay. I do not know anyone in this assembly likely to evade this just responsibility to the State; but we all want to know how much we are called upon to pay; why we are called upon to pay it; and then, if we think the call is just, we will pay unquestioningly. This tax is wrong in principle. It enables the profiteers to keep shoving up prices. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer got every penny of excess profits we could not grumble; but, in the past, Governments have placed war debts on the heads of the working classes, and now they are beginning to think you would not stand it that way, so they take this way.

Mr. T. N. RALSTON (Border Conference): It gives me the greatest pleasure this afternoon to support the amendment which has been ably moved and seconded. Scotland is up in arms against the Excess Profits Tax. Mr.

Wilson has told us that some societies are likely to be brought nearly to the knee through this inequitable tax, placed on the societies by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, initiated by Mr. McKenna and supported by Mr. Bonar Law. Behind these men was a far greater organisation opposed to us as co-operators. It was the Chambers of Commerce and the Private Traders' Associations which were shoving on these men and getting them to impose taxation which will cripple us and hinder our trade. The Northcliffes and the other profiteers will thereby reap a harvest which they have not sown. It has been said that if you touch the dividend, especially when you talk about Scotch people, you touch their conscience. I am not quite sure whether the same thing did not apply to our English, Irish, and Welsh friends in the same way. The Parliamentary Committee, in my opinion, have been lax from the very outset of this question. From the beginning they have shown an inclination to bend the knee and to go cap in hand on this question. What we want to do is to do the thing straight. We are willing and always ready to pay our fair share of taxation. We object to having our goods unfairly taxed. It means that the goods were taxed on going through the Wholesale Society. We in Scotland have passed on a percentage of this tax through the Wholesale Society, then it comes into our distributive centres and is taxed again. The same thing is taxed over and over again. For this reason we as co-operators have to learn one lesson which has been taught us. We must stand up straight and strong ready to defend our cause, which is the common cause of the people. We do not want favours—we want justice. Justice is the only thing asked for—let us see that we get it. I have much pleasure in supporting the amendment.

Mr. R. HADFIELD (Oldham Equitable): I am glad the movers of the amendment have used the language they did. When the tax comes to be levied not on profits but on the dividends of co-operative societies, then it is another matter. Co-operators have never deviated so far as interest on capital is concerned since the war started. If every other firm had done that there would have been no reason for any Excess Profits Tax. Long before people realised the seriousness of the tax we in Oldham were agitating. Our member of Parliament wrote back saying he could not understand it, and wanting more information. We gave it him. He came to see us, and I said we were going to move in this matter, and asked him what was the best thing to do. The first thing to do, he said, is to convert your Parliamentary Committee, and then you will have a chance. Are the Parliamentary Committee converted? I say they are not. But by passing this amendment of the Co-operative Union, I am practically satisfied that they soon will be. I want the Parliamentary Committee to tell us where we are. I have been trying to get at that for the past year and more. The amendment is essential; it is no use standing down because you cannot get all you want at once.

Mr. W. GALLACHER (Co-operative Insurance Society): In rising to support the amendment, I have one regret, and that is that this strong position

taken up by the Central Board was not taken up a year ago. At Lancaster something might have been done to save the situation. Mr. May has been complimented upon his diplomatic speech. It has not been replied to. You are crying for the moon. That is Mr. May's opinion. Are we to hold our tongues because we cannot get the tax shifted? We have been very badly served by the Parliamentary Committee. The whole question should have been brought before the movement as a whole. Mr. May talked most severely to me at Lancaster. A year has gone past and the wheel has come round full circle. No one has a good word to say for the tax to-day save the Parliamentary Committee, and even they, if Mr. May would allow them, would condemn it. The position is really whether the principle is bad and if a protest is not made how is it going to be got rid of? If we sit silent we will be held as agreeing to it. The point is: Is the tax right or wrong? If it is wrong why bother about mitigating the application of something which is entirely wrong? The amendment goes straight for principle. The resolution is compromising and vacillating. Why talk about incidence when it is wrong in principle from top to bottom? If, as Mr. May says, its application is to profiteers, then co-operators are profiteers. If that is so then we want to get the moon. This question of principle must be fought out. You must stand by your principles. What we have won we must keep. So far as you assert your rights you will be respected, but no Government will care for you if you cave in as the Parliamentary Committee have done.

A number of the delegates seemed eager to take part in the discussion; but there were repeated calls for a vote from various parts of the hall.

Mr. W. COLLINS (West London): I want to ask: Are there societies dealing with non-members and paying them half dividend? If they pay only half dividend to non-members, is it, or is it not, a fact that they make profits?

Mr. J. PENNY (Sheffield and Ecclesall): When the Excess Profits Bill was introduced was there any mention of co-operative societies in it? Was the mention of co-operative societies put in at the instigation of the Parliamentary Committee and has that been fatal to our position with regard to the tax?

More still desired to speak; but delegates were anxious for the vote to be taken.

The PRESIDENT: Let us just settle this. Those in favour of continuing the discussion, "Hands up!" There now, the discussion is ended and I will call upon Mr. May to reply.

MR. MAY'S REPLY.

Mr. MAY (replying) told Mr. Penny that co-operative societies were mentioned in the first Bill. Continuing, he said: Mr. Penny also asks whether the mention of co-operative societies was put in at the suggestion of the Parliamentary Committee and whether, that having been put in,

all our troubles and difficulties arose from that fact. I decline to answer two questions which are obviously framed to throw further offence upon the Parliamentary Committee from which they have, long since, cleared themselves. It is absurd that after two years and all the discussions we have had that a Congress like this should still find itself harping upon what was done in 1915 instead of facing the facts we have to-day. I ask this Congress, as I asked the conference at Oldham: If you are not satisfied with the Parliamentary Committee, say so! With regard to Mr. Gallacher's suggestion—or, rather, his offensive insinuation, that the Parliamentary Committee are unduly prejudiced by what I say; it is offensive to them and not to me, and I hope my colleagues will suitably resent it. We are of the same opinion as we were twelve months ago. I deny Mr. Gallacher's suggestion that I have ever, at any time, said that this tax was right in principle. What I have said is on record and what I have written is on record in co-operative literature. We have never said this was right in principle. We are not converted from the position we have taken up. We have urged upon both Chancellors of the Exchequer that this matter is wrong in principle; and their reply has been that no question of the general fiscal system was involved in this matter which was a special war emergency. If you do not accept that, so much the worse for us. Mr. Watkins has asked you to vote for or against the tax. If this issue were put clearly before you and if you were asked to vote against the principle, I would vote against the principle; but the issue is not there. This is a pure war emergency matter; and it has hit a lot of people. If Mr. Gallacher had told us that he was not in favour of the amendment and that he was in favour of the resolution I would have thought that he had waited till now for an opportunity of replying to my speech at Lancaster last year. Mr. Ralston says we are taxed twice—through the Wholesale Societies and through the retail societies. That is not true. One of the arrangements we did make was that societies were not to be taxed twice. Mr. Hadfield says co-operators have not deviated in the rate of interest since the war started. That is not true. Many societies have increased their rate of interest. I want to say, in conclusion, that the issue as we see it before us is the issue of doing the practicable thing or the impracticable thing. When you have all gone back to your own homes, we have to set to work to carry out your wishes. We want to pursue all the objects you have in view; but this amendment will not help us but will prejudice our efforts. Next year we shall have to come back here and give you an account of our progress. Whether we were fools or asleep when the Bill was brought in or not, we are wide awake now; and we shall try to see that the best is done for the movement; but, do not tie our hands.

The PRESIDENT: I shall ask you first of all to vote for or against the amendment.

The vote having been taken, the PRESIDENT declared the amendment carried "by a large majority."

INCOME TAX.

Mr. T. W. ALLEN (Co-operative Wholesale Society) submitted the following resolution on behalf of the Joint Parliamentary Committee :—

That this Congress strongly urges upon all co-operative societies the necessity of continuing and increasing the campaign of propaganda so well begun against the agitation of the Private Traders' Associations for the taxation of co-operative trade, and declares its determination to maintain by every means in its power the sound economic position of the co-operative movement in relation to taxation, which has been declared by the Inland Revenue authorities for many years past and confirmed by successive Chancellors of the Exchequer.

While the promise remains the present wrongs which we have just been considering will pass with the flux of time ; we have a clear duty to see that they are not superseded by others of a permanent and more disastrous character. It sometimes happens in the history of the movement, as it does in the history of nations, that to save all things we must concentrate on one or two points of vital importance, and that is our position with regard to the latest attempts to bring co-operative societies' dividends and trade within the scope of income tax legislation. There is nothing new about the agitation of private traders' associations for the taxation of our trade but at this time we definitely charge these people with using an occasion of national crisis to inflict a wrong on a movement which they have always hated and which they have now grown to fear. War, moreover, is always a great searcher of motives and a revealer of action, and whilst this great world catastrophe brought out all that is best and finest in democracy it has also laid bare all that is worst in commercial life. Let us think of the matter. For the past two years all the machinery of every Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom has been used to bring us under the law. In the commercial and capitalistic press we have been assailed. The process has been one of deliberately manufactured propaganda. Since our last Congress the profiteering interests, working through Parliament, have succeeded in putting down amendments to the Finance Bill, the proposal of which was to tax fifty per cent of all surplus of all co-operative trade, wholesale and retail, for all time in order, as they ingeniously put it, to compel societies to prove the amount of their non-co-operative trade. Iniquity and inquisition could not further go. Just think what it means. The income tax collector walking into every co-operative society throughout the country and taking 10s. of every co-operator's legitimate savings on his purchases. What Parliamentarian, I should like to ask, even in these days, has dreamed of taxing a millionaire, banker, railways, shippers, brokers, or syndicates 50 per cent on all profits. What would be thought of us if we suggested that such an outrage should be inflicted on any branch of British trade, commerce, or industry ? No, but the co-operative movement is made up of the nation's workers and toilers. How dare they organise to

make their earnings go a little farther. "Let us tax them out of existence," say the Parliamentary profiteers, and "let us do it now." We are glad to find that they did not succeed, but they obtained a promise that the matter will be considered when the war is over. Our position is to be made the subject of an inquiry after the war. Thus from the House of Commons itself a challenge has been issued to the co-operative movement. We did not seek it. We did nothing to seek and nothing to provoke it—unless it is a crime to keep down prices and save people the utmost limit from wartime exploiters. That challenge the movement has accepted. To have done otherwise would have been to deny the past, betray the future, and make ourselves mean and contemptible in our own sight. I am not going to waste time in restating the case. It is known to our enemies; it has been discussed in every section. It does not rest on tradition, or even measured opinions; it is established in law. There are no new conditions as Mr. Currie (one of our subtlest opponents) contends. The principle is the same and equally righteous whether the turnover is 50 or 150 millions or whether Parliamentarians who need conversion in this matter, but we shall leave it to the management committee and members in their constituencies to question them before their return to office. The whole art of war is rapid concentration on that which is decisive. Every campaign is governed by two sets of elements—the one certain the other uncertain. In the fierce struggle over taxation which must presently take place it is certain that trade interests inside and outside Parliament will spare no effort in devising schemes for shifting the burdens. It is equally certain that the profiteering interests will continue to display the most vulgar passions with regard to our rights as an organised body. Against these opposing elements we have advantages which are being daily improved. The movement is awakening, and the co-operative resources are being mobilised. We are organising, not against nations, to escape obligations, but against vested interests whose concerns keep us under, and also against the nation's rulers who betray their trust, and who use their high position not for the purpose of passing equitable laws but for crippling their opponents. We have our certainties—there is the certainty of using women power for propaganda, and of man power at the polling booth in every industrial constituency. There is the certainty of support from organised labour; they have already said: "Hands off the co-operative dividend!" We have a strong conviction in the justice of our propaganda, which this resolution calls upon you to continue and increase. We have a growing conviction not only in the numerical but in the moral power of the movement. We know our goal, and are determined to resist this latest attempt to destroy our rights of association. We stand, and mean to stand, as a free organisation, with liberty to spend our earnings where, how, and under what system we please, with an unalienable right to shape our own destiny. In this fight there must be no spectators. The fight is the business of every co-operative producer and consumer. We have right and might on our side—with these twin

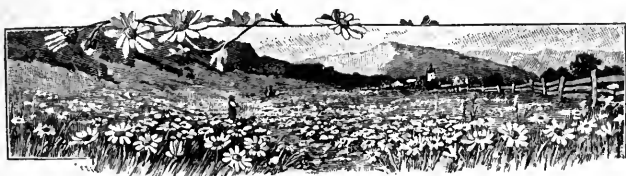
brethren fighting side by side they will prove irresistible. The cry will go up that we are not patriots. Let the answer go back that they are the true patriots who refuse to be exploited by those who in the hour of the nation's agony tried to inflict a wrong on a movement, whose sole offence was that it stood for the people, and made ancient greed to pause in its Gadarenish haste to grow rich out of the profits of war.

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial): "To thine own self be true, thou can'st not then be false to any man." I feel the importance of this matter as I never felt it in my life before. I feel that this Congress is in danger of looking at the issues from the side that is parochial, and of losing the wider and cleaner perspective. I second the resolution with a full sense of the measure of power of argument and weakness in my own case. As co-operators we are suffering already from a tax unjustly inflicted upon us. I wish the Wholesale Society would publish their figures showing how much they pay in Income Tax as far as it affects the point under discussion this afternoon, and relating to that part of the tax which arose on profit. The question you have to ask yourselves is: Have co-operative societies made a profit? Face that honestly and straightforwardly, and ask the Co-operative Wholesale Society if they have made any contracts, and how many thousands of pounds were made outside the movement. If they have made a profit what is there to distinguish this from private traders' profit? If you had supported the Parliamentary Committee you might have saved yourselves from this anomaly. You are instructing the Committee to take this matter forward. Make your case strong and be not afraid to put yourself in the right. Put yourselves right as far as the distributive societies are concerned in making no profit and in not recognising non-members' trade. This is the issue before you. Go back to your societies and ask: What are you doing—are you making private contracts and conducting non-members' trade, or confining yourselves to the legitimate co-operative work? By dealing with yourselves and making new members you will promote the solidity of the movement, and will have Parliament to support you.

The resolution was then put and carried.

The GENERAL SECRETARY having made some announcements, Congress rose for the day.





SECOND DAY OF CONGRESS.

TUESDAY, 29th MAY, 1917.

MORNING SITTING.

The PRESIDENT (Mr. E. R. Wood) proceeded to the platform promptly to time on the Tuesday morning, and addressing the delegates, said : I wish you all a good morning. I hope we have come to do a little bit of good business, and that we shall not have any disturbance at all. I also hope we shall all apply ourselves to what there is to do until it is finished.

The delegates cordially reciprocated the sentiments given expression to by the President.

INCOME TAX.

Mr. H. WILSON (Birmingham District): Myself and a few friends are very anxious to have an assurance that the matter touched upon on this page of the report (Income Tax) should be discussed before we go any further. I believe the way in which this report has been taken is most unsatisfactory. The report in itself ought to have been taken first and either accepted or rejected, and the resolutions taken separately. The Co-operative Union consists of two kinds of societies, one distributive and the other productive, and both are registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. We read a good deal in the report about the attack upon industrial distributive societies, but little at all is said about the attacks being made upon productive societies, and no effort is made by the Co-operative Union to tell the members

anything about the dangers which threaten the productive societies. By productive societies I mean those societies which, in the first place, are generally formed by a few working men subscribing capital to form the society; where a certain percentage of the workers are elected upon the committee and share the management; and where the workers receive a percentage of the profits on their wages. It is well known that private traders' associations and chambers of commerce want to throw these productive societies back from the protection of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, and force them to register under the Companies Act. The last paragraph (which dealt with public contracts) is, in my opinion, the black spot which makes this page the black page in the report. The suggestions contained therein remind me of the tales of Siberian travellers who, when pursued by wolves, threw aside one piece of wearing apparel after another to appease the wolves, and if that device did not succeed they cast lots amongst themselves as to who should be sacrificed in order that the rest might have a chance of escape. It appears to me that the Parliamentary Committee are prepared to throw over the productive societies to appease the private traders if they can only escape the incidence of the Income Tax. It is discreditable that the Parliamentary Committee should attempt to forge a weapon for the use of our enemies, which they are doing in this particular paragraph. Our answer to the agitation on Income Tax should be that Income Tax is an individual matter, and that we have no desire to shelter those who may be liable. I am afraid if we accept the suggestions of the Parliamentary Committee it will mean throwing the productive societies out of the Co-operative Union.

Mr. R. MURRAY (Barrhead): I quite agree with the last speaker. This part of the report is in line with what has gone before; it is another evidence of weakness. Mr. May has pointed out, in his pamphlet on "Taxing Dividends," that these people who are fighting us have no desire for peace, and that the greatest evil that could befall them would be that the cause of complaint should be removed; yet the Committee are proposing to throw aside these public contracts to please these people who do not want peace. We are bound to seek these public contracts and to hold them and to extend them. We are serving our members directly by doing so, and we are also serving them indirectly as ratepayers. Income Tax is an individual matter. No private manufacturer is charged Income Tax if his income is not up to a certain standard. If we must pay Income Tax on these contracts let us declare our profit on that trade, but let us hold our right to these contracts. I trust the movement will not be so feeble and so weak as to cast aside the right to press for public contracts.

Mr. W. G. HARRISON (Walsall Locks and Cart Gear): If this idea of the Parliamentary Committee be endorsed by the movement it will hinder the achievement of one ideal at least—the ideal of self employment. If, to meet the traders' agitation, we are going to restrict our trade and deny ourselves the right to go in for contracts, we will be making it difficult to employ any

considerable proportion of the membership of the societies. The reason for the Parliamentary Committee's proposal is to make it easier to resist the demand for payment of Income Tax. It will not do that. As soon as we do anything to meet the demands of the private traders, they shift their ground. They always do shift their ground. They asked the Government to tax profits, now they are asking the Government to tax our trade. If we give way with regard to contracts it will not reduce the virulence of the attacks. Why should we not fight the enemy on all fronts? If we withdraw it will be taken as an admission that our case is weak, and that we have no reserves to bring forward. We are serving the community in taking these contracts.

Mr. F. MADDISON (Blackpool Printers): As one who is particularly interested in co-partnership in this movement, think that our complaint against the Parliamentary Committee need not be exaggerated. As a matter of fact, I do not think that they can possibly mean exactly what the words indicate. You must remember that the Parliamentary Committee have to meet somewhere near the House of Commons. The microbe of tactics and expediency does affect you, however much you try to expose it. I am speaking from the common experience of members of the House of Commons. This is the point—the fun comes after. The point here is this: You are asked to do in this report what is impossible with a number of the productive societies—that is to say you are asking them to trade only with their own members. Do you know that there are societies where trade union rates of wages are paid, where the co-partnership principles are in full operation, where from the necessity of the case the bulk of the trade is done in the outside market. Is there anybody going to suggest that it is not a good thing that the commodities made by these societies should be bought, including, as they do, the great principle of participation in the profits, and recognition of trade union conditions. Would you prevent societies from doing some of the best work done in the movement? The Parliamentary Committee do not mean this. I am quite certain that they have no desire to do any such thing. All we ask is that the Parliamentary Committee should take this paragraph back—here we are on strong ground. Make no mistake about it—and point out to us that, when dealing with Income Tax, we are only on strong ground when we treat it with respect to dividend on purchases. When once you get in the broader domain you are in a deadlock. The Parliamentary Committee, I say, have not said enough. Let them define the position clearly, but do not let them ask us to do anything to destroy the co-partnership societies which are part of a comprehensive movement. The co-partnership societies have incorporated in their rules some of the greatest principles of the men whose names we see here on the galleries had made their life's study and life's work to promote. When once you impregnate the nation with the great principles of participation the member is removed from the mere position of a wage slave. All I ask the Parliamentary Committee is to remove the words which I am certain

they did not mean as they stand, which are likely to be an impediment to the progress of a great movement.

Mr. W. FIELDEN (Parkstone and Bournemouth) : I am totally opposed to the previous speaker. My opinion is, and it is the opinion of my society, that these small productive efforts are wasted energy. We must concentrate and federate our efforts.

Mr. F. W. BOOTH (Hull Printers) : I have been associated with a labour co-partnership society for some twenty years. Societies have sprung into existence up and down the country, and they are giving a remarkably good account of themselves. It is humbug for people to say that because they are small that they are unnecessary.

The CHAIRMAN : Will you please stick to the paragraph in the report ?

Mr. BOOTH : I was just anxious to have a word in reply to our friend in the gallery. Perhaps you are right, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JUDD (Nottingham) : It seems to some of us that we are discussing the merits or otherwise of the productive societies rather than the paragraph in the report. This clause is only in regard to their liability or otherwise to Income Tax, and if they are subject to Income Tax it does not say they will be struck out at all. The question to most of us is who gets the profits ? and when we get to that question in regard to public contracts the protest of Mr. Sharples yesterday needs emphasising more and more. If we make profits out of outside transactions we are liable to Income Tax, and we ought not to attempt to avoid it. The only way out of the whole question of Income Tax is for us as working men to demand that the Government shall abolish indirect taxation altogether, and pay the Income Tax straight forwardly, and every man who has anything like a decent income would have to declare his income and he would then be taxed direct upon it. That is the only way out, and we must see that we find that way.

Mr. H. J. MAY (secretary of the Parliamentary Committee) replied to the discussion. Three out of the first four speakers (Messrs. Wilson, Murray, Harrison, and Maddison) who objected to the paragraph spoke on behalf of productive societies. But I want this Congress to be quite clear that Mr. Murray voices another opinion, and does not speak solely for the productive societies. He and others are urging exactly the same position with regard to distributive societies. Very well, and if you agree—if this Congress agrees—that societies should go in for these contracts there is nothing more to be said. You might as well, however, rescind the resolution you passed on Income Tax yesterday, for if you go in for public contracts the other thing will come along. You are asking us to take steps so that co-operative societies shall not be directly assessed for Income Tax ; to see that this inequality and this injustice is not put upon them ; and yet from one side and the other we are continually being pressed to trim our sails and say that certain extra privileges and these extra advantages shall not be cut off. I do not say—the Parliamentary Committee do not say—that societies should not go in for public contracts if they wished to, but I do think it is not part

of the real work of the co-operative movement to go in for such contracts. The movement seeks to establish a new order of commerce and industry, and ought not to take advantage of the ordinary methods of capitalism. We do not think it is your business to go in for public contracts any more than for non-members' trade, but if you do then let us drop this agitation against Income Tax. The immense majority of our societies are the distributive and consumers' societies, and it was chiefly those societies which we had in mind when this statement of policy was drawn up. If you look at the bottom of the page you will find that this statement of policy which has been issued to societies has been signed in the name of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Central Board, so that it is not a question of the Co-operative Union standing out and being different from the Joint Parliamentary Committee on this matter. Mr. Murray suggests that we should allow ourselves to be assessed on non-members' trade, but has he realised the amount of trouble and expense societies would be put to in keeping a record of such transactions? I do not think I need occupy your time any further, but if you do decide to go in for contracts and non-members' trade it will be useless going on with the fight against the Income Tax agitation. You cannot have your halfpenny and your toffee as well. That is exactly the position; and if you want this trade then you will have to submit to Income Tax in some form or other.

Delegates laughed when the President, reading the titles of the paragraphs of the report, came to "Distribution of Sugar," but the paragraph was not discussed.

CONTROL OF PRICES.

On the section of the report dealing with "Control of Prices," Mr MOULE (Stratford) said he wanted to mention potatoes. Proceeding, he said: The Government have not commandeered potatoes. They gave out certain instructions but these instructions left great loopholes, and it comes to this that the poor people cannot get potatoes. Our society used to take from 25 to 30 tons per week, but since the Government interfered we cannot get anything. We had our buyer before us and asked him why that was, seeing that the Government had decided upon certain prices. The buyer said he could not get potatoes at the price the Government named, but if we allowed him to pay £2 or £3 or £4 per ton more than the Government price—he could get potatoes. I hope when the question of Parliamentary representation comes up, people will come to our side. We could not let the purchases go through at prices we were not paying, because we would be the first to complain of that sort of thing. We went to the Controller to point out these things to him. The Controller said: I have heard these things before, but what is your proof? On 24th March potatoes were sold in Spalding Market, Lincoln, for £11. 10s. per ton when the Government said the price was to be £9. The Controller said: Possibly, but the people would not get them before April.

Mr. J. G. WEBSTER (Pioneer Boot Works) : This question of food prices should have more consideration from the movement. It is a matter which is giving rise to a lot of labour unrest, and I am of the opinion that the movement should do a great deal more in the matter of pressing the Government to take a hand in restraining exploitation. I know that something has been done, and I appreciate the effort, but I do not think that enough has been done even after the conference of co-operators and trade-unionists. It will be seen in the reports of this conference that the conference decided that for the further period of the war, and for six months thereafter, the Government should purchase wheat on sound business lines and sell at prices that would secure the sale of the quartern loaf at 6d. Following that a conference of co-operators was held, but this part of the resolution seemed to be lost to sight, and nothing was heard of the 6d. loaf. The matter of food prices is not going to be governed by increased wages or war bonuses, because so long as exploitation is allowed, prices will go up and annul any advantage increased wages would bring.

REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES, &c.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Mr. Varley will move the following resolution. Before he does so I ought to call your attention to the amendment sent in by Warrington, Liverpool, and eight other societies, which is printed on the separate sheet. The Parliamentary Committee have decided to put forward as part of their resolution this amendment, which will be added as clause (c), and read as follows : "The inclusion of representatives of co-operative societies on any local food committees or public bodies authorised by the Government to assist in the administration of any system of rationing or food distribution put in operation."

RESOLUTION.

That in view of the fact that the co-operative movement is the only organised body of consumers in the country ; that co-operators with their families constitute over 26 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom, and that through the medium of their associated wholesale and retail distributive agencies and productive works, they have been, and are, desirous of being of the greatest possible service to the State, this Congress calls upon the Government to take steps to ensure that this section of the community is adequately represented upon the various controlling authorities that have been or will be appointed to deal with the organisation of production, distribution, and exchange during the war, and requests that this resolution may be given effect to as follows :—

- (a) By the inclusion of representatives of co-operative organisations upon the *personnel* of the staffs of expert advisers attached to the special administrative bodies dealing with matters arising from the war.

- (b) By proportionate representation upon the Departmental Committees appointed from time to time, for the purpose of investigating and advising the respective departments on the various matters referred to them.
- (c) By the inclusion of representatives of co-operative societies on any local food committees or public bodies authorised by the Government to assist in the administration of any system of rationing or food distribution put in operation.

That the Parliamentary Committee be requested to take all possible steps to give effect to the resolution and, if necessary, to ask the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the subject.

Mr. A. VARLEY (Co-operative Insurance) : The first part of the resolution states a fact "that the co-operative movement is the only organised body of consumers in the country" which is not known or if known is completely overlooked by the Government and by many of the authorities set up by the Government in recent times. In departments having to do with the consumer (and in this term I include eating, clothing, and furnishing) there are two functions—one is to secure a sufficient supply and then that it shall arrive at its destination—the consumer, at a reasonable price, and the consumer is vitally interested in both supply and price. It is because of these facts and these alone that we have been and are anxious to assist the Government in every possible way. Yet, what have we seen, organisations and persons whose entry into and continuance in any particular line of business is to organise supplies in the interests of capital invested, and for the purpose of personal enrichment, have been again and again called in to aid the Government in the difficult problems which have confronted them, "expert advisers" they are called, ordinary "channels of business" is another phrase used to designate certain phases of work, yet at the time when this resolution was drafted a very scant use had been made of the organisation which the consumer has set up himself for the purpose of protecting himself against the very evils which the Government appear to be anxious to avoid. There has been some little improvement in recent weeks, but much has yet to be done which can be done before adequate use is made of our information and organisation, and also our representatives could and ought to wield more power and influence than they are sometimes allowed to use. We have means of knowing how, when, why, and where evils exist, and the remedies required, such as no other organisation or body of men have or which no others can procure. We say we are "desirous of being of the greatest possible service to the State," and we mean what we say, because we are one-fourth of the State, and what is of benefit to the State as a whole is peculiarly of benefit to ourselves, and yet except in the early days of the war when the Government were looking for efficient organisations to aid them in clothing and feeding the mass of men coming rushing in to their armies, and they rightly turned to us to do our part, which we did readily,

freely, and willingly. Except, I say, in those strenuous days, they have made little or no use of our organisation. We seek no personal profit, we seek only that the requirements of the consumer shall be met with the least possible leakage between its production wherever and however that may be, and its use; and for these reasons we "call upon the Government to take steps to ensure that this section of the community is adequately represented upon the various controlling authorities that have been or will be appointed to deal with the organisation of production, distribution, and exchange during the war." We believe that had we been consulted and our advice followed (from time to time) the consumer would have been better off than he is to-day. We also believe that many of the interests and personalities which have been safeguarded, could have been passed by and left available for work of more national necessity and importance so far as they are concerned, and they would probably have now been more useful but less wealthy men. Interests are being hedged round and enriched, and arrangements have been made from time to time which will be difficult for us to break through if allowed to go. The worker has had to forego much for which he has in the past fought for. Shall he now lose his power to supply himself by his own organisation? We have made an addition to the resolution as printed in the report, and request that we be adequately represented upon national and local rationing committees if and when such committees are set up. In many industrial towns and villages one-half or more of the population get their necessities from the co-operative store, and we desire a fuller representation than has hitherto been accorded us, when questions affecting the people have been raised. Town Councils, many members of which are private traders, every kind of traders' organisation and certain prominent citizens usually constitute the local committees set up from time to time with possibly a single representative of the consumers' organisation. It is our right, and we are only asking for the protection of the consumer when we say that we should be fully represented on any local committees set up. This war and these strenuous times have been revealers, they have revealed amongst other things that patriotism and love of country are not the sole attribute of any one class. They have revealed the fact that it is possible to amass wealth and fortunes during the time of the nation's need. They have revealed the restraining influence which co-operation as applied to-day has upon those who would amass wealth at the expense of the consumer, and we have also seen a glimpse of the greatness of the possibilities of a fuller application of our principles in trading and in everyday life; greater loyalty of the individual to the great principle which we espouse; greater loyalty of our societies to the large federal institutions; and the possibilities of a great forward march by our two Wholesale Societies, and through them the emancipation of the worker from the thralldom of capitalism. In the meantime we call upon the Government in the words of the resolution to let us assist them, and in assisting them we shall assist ourselves, and give to the world an evidence of what the worker in association can accomplish.

Mr. A. BARNES (Stratford) : Mr. Varley's opening statement should convince the Congress of the importance of the resolution. I feel that all those who have had any measure of control in the conduct of co-operative societies during the past two and a half years must have had the conviction gradually forced upon them that there is a deliberate boycott of co-operative interests in Government circles. Whilst thanking the Parliamentary Committee for putting this resolution before Congress, I hope it will not be assumed that we in London and the movement generally are satisfied with the position as it stands to-day. What I think this Congress should sit down and do is to demand from the Parliamentary Committee an indication of the policy they intend to pursue ; and I cannot help thinking that the resolution as it stands, if put into the hands of the governing authorities of this country, will not carry much weight. For instance the resolution winds up, as though it is practically a last resort, that the Parliamentary Committee should take steps to interview the Prime Minister if necessary. I have done a bit of interviewing myself. I have been before certain Food Controllers' officials. We have been received courteously, spoken to very nicely, and our claims admitted right up to the hilt ; but we have come away as we have gone in. I therefore suggest that the Parliamentary Committee should give a lead to this Congress as to what they intend to do in a businesslike way. If this resolution is carried, I say it is up to them, if we do not get any further recognition within a reasonable time, to call the co-operators of the country together again to concentrate on this question, and for the purpose of devising ways and means of enforcing their demands. I hope the resolution, together with the Warrington amendment, will be passed unanimously, and that the delegates will show, by their speeches and feelings, that they intend the Parliamentary Committee to go further than they stated in this report.

The resolution (including the Warrington amendment) was carried with only one or two dissentients.

A WARRINGTON DELEGATE : The Parliamentary Committee having accepted our amendment ought to give us an opportunity of moving it.

RAILWAY FARES.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York) : Can the Parliamentary Committee tell us whether there is any hope of any reduction of the 50 per cent advance in railway fares ? Can they give us any hope that the other threatened 50 per cent next month will not be put on ?

Mr. MAY : Not the slightest.

Mr. ANDERSON : Do not you think we ought to try and do something ? You are going to make travelling absolutely impossible, especially for the working classes. What is going to happen to us ? What about our businesses ? This is one of the important things we have to consider. What about our societies and our necessary travelling ? What is going to happen ? Why not ask the Government to go on and stop railway travelling altogether ?

I think we ought to try and do something in the matter. I do not care what happens to it in the end so long as we make some effort to remedy it.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Burnley): I certainly think, Mr. Chairman, some effort should be made to influence the Government on this matter, which is a serious thing for the working classes.

QUESTIONS TO PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

Mr. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton) under this head reintroduced the question of railway fares, amid laughter. He said: The doubling of railway fares is having a curious effect, and I think questions on this point should be put to candidates for Parliament. I can see in the doubling of the railway fares the prevention of the working classes having their holidays. It is an injustice to the working classes. Those who labour should have the same opportunity as is afforded to those who are making money out of those who were working fifty-one weeks out of the fifty-two.

Mr. A. W. HALL (Worcester): I want to congratulate the Union on being affiliated with the War Workers' Emergency Committee. If Mr. Barnes is to get a move on, the best way to do it is by pushing the claims of this committee which has the support of the great organisations represented by Mr. Bellamy and Mr. Smillie. If the Government will not move, we should get the Triple Alliance to do a bit. I would like to see more co-operators on this committee than our Secretary, although we have a great representative in him. I congratulate the Union on being affiliated with this, which is the most important committee to-day, although it does not get much recognition.

The PRESIDENT: You will get another opportunity of discussing this on the Report of the War Emergency: Workers' National Committee.

The GENERAL SECRETARY: We have two representatives on this committee in addition to Mr. May.

The PRESIDENT: You have discussed the Parliamentary Committee's report at some length. Do you approve of it as a whole, leaving out the questions we agreed to take separately? All those in favour of it say "Aye." (A chorus of "Ayes.") The "Ayes" have it.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION: THE ORDER OF PROCEDURE.

Mr. J. POLLITT (on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee): I have no doubt a great many are wondering how we are going to deal with the question of Parliamentary representation without getting confused. We have not been able to boil down the resolutions as we could have wished; but we want to suggest a course to be followed so that you will be able to decide the question upon a clear issue. In the first place the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee will be put because that embodies the principle of Parliamentary representation. As an amendment to that will be taken that of the Co-operative Bookbinders' Society. Upon that resolu-

tion and the amendment you get a clear issue. Whichever is carried will become the substantive motion, and the resolution sent in by 104 societies will be taken as an amendment. Whichever is carried, the resolution sent in in the name of the Wholesale Society and several other societies will be taken as an amendment to it; and whichever of these is carried the Birmingham resolution will be taken against it and finally we get to the last one—the resolution that £1,000 be set apart for carrying this into effect,

THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, moved—

That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has now arrived for the co-operative movement to take the necessary steps to secure direct representation in Parliament as the only way of effectively voicing its demands and safeguarding its interests.

He pointed out that the resolution as moved substituted "this Congress" for the Parliamentary Committee, as the resolution had been accepted by the Central Board. In submitting the resolution he said: I want, so far as I can, to make the issue perfectly clear. I want to say that, in this resolution there is no reference to, and no intention of, any alliance with any political party. What we are declaring for is co-operative representation for the purpose of voicing co-operative opinions. I want the delegates to look at the record of the Parliamentary Committee for the past year and say whether there is not something more than we have necessary to voice effectively the opinions of the movement. Take Income Tax, Excess Profits Duty, Military Service, the Sugar Commission, Paper, and other matters. Everyone of these things is of vital importance to the co-operative movement and to the working classes. With all the best intentions in the world on the part of our friends in Parliament, we must have someone on the floor of the House of Commons with a direct and inside knowledge of the co-operative movement to make clear any points that may come before the legislature under which we exist. I do not belittle what has been done by our friends in Parliament—especially the Labour Leaders, who have given us magnificent assistance. We have got past the time, however, when we should take off our hats and beg and pray anybody. We ought to be above the begging and praying business. We should be able and willing to pay for our own representation. We have heard this morning that the Government has neglected us. Why, do you wonder? I am going to ask my trade union friends and delegates what would be the position of the trade union movement in these days if they had not got in the House of Commons direct representation? Do you think that in the present position, with the dilution of labour and with other questions waived for the period of the war—would there ever have been a guarantee that the previous position would be reverted to after the end of the war unless there was a force behind them there. We are exactly in the same position. Take

the treatment of co-operative societies generally with regard to other matters. Take the question of military service. I have myself been told in the tribunal by the military representative that the closing of the co-operative branches will simply mean a good living for small tradesmen in certain areas. This proves that behind the whole Government organisation there is a very distinct bias against the co-operative movement. I am not going to suggest that this Parliamentary representation is going to be a panacea for all our ills, but I do say that it is one of the things in the march of events which we cannot afford to ignore. If we are going to take our proper place in the reconstruction of industry after the war we have to leave no stone unturned to see that our voice is heard in every assembly whenever any organisation and arrangement is made for such reconstruction. I know that I shall be told that this will split up the movement—I do not believe it. Many years ago this came before you. I submit that public opinion and co-operative opinion have materially altered since then. I do not want to see the co-operative movement sacrificed to material ends. In the "Old Book" it is written: "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul." What will it profit our movement if we sacrifice our principles to expediency. I submit this resolution, and having spent many years of strenuous work in the movement I do not want to split it up; I want to strengthen the movement. I am going to submit that in the present position of affairs no one can see what is in the immediate future. We have to go forward with a united front with all the strength we can bring to bear to see that the co-operative movement is safeguarded against all attacks. I have much pleasure in moving the resolution.

Mr. W. R. ALLAN (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale): I rise to second the resolution. I think the movement has become amply ripe for the consideration of the question before us this morning. My mind goes back twenty years, to the Perth Congress, when our honourable friend, Mr. Maxwell, brought up the memorable resolution, which was exactly along the same lines as the one we have before us this morning, and which remitted to the Co-operative Union, the Wholesale Society, and the Scottish Wholesale Society the task of preparing a scheme whereby the wishes of the Congress could be carried into effect. What made the manhood and womanhood of the movement of twenty years rise up in their wrath and at the Perth Congress pass the resolution I have just referred to? It was the boycott; that was the means of hurrying up the movement to a higher sense of its duty. I have sat here on the platform this morning and I have listened to the discussion, and I hope the resolution will be passed unanimously. There is more than ample justification for it, but I will only mention two reasons—one is the income tax and the other excess profits. Here we are a federation of three and a half millions of members, representing fifteen millions of people almost. Fifteen millions out of forty-four millions in the British Isles. Our loan and share capital amount to £70,000,000 and our annual trade is over £190,000,000. We are financially

interested in shipping, railways, land, banking, finance, wheat, tea and sugar, and all those were questions which we cannot separate from politics. They are all being dealt with in Parliament, whether wisely or not; and I want to ask you is there a single one of those interests without sitting representatives in the House of Commons? We have not at present a direct representative in the British House of Commons unless we claim the Labour, which has had its representatives in the House of Commons for a considerable time; and what made the trade-unionists send their representatives to the House of Commons? (Several delegates: Taff Vale.) Yes, the Taff Vale decision; and it is questions such as these which will force co-operators to go to the House of Commons. Why should we go cap-in-hand to this or that party? Why should we be lobbying from day to day, when we ought to be independent of such things by having representatives of our own in the House of Commons to look after our interests? Let me here deal with some of the objections to our proposals as contained in the resolution. There are people, for instance, who object to direct representation because of the cost such a step would entail, the cost, in my opinion, would be insignificant bearing in mind the wealth of the movement and the interests involved. Think of the millions of capital involved! Our savings last year, including interest, were £19,000,000. Now, if we are not prepared to meet our obligations in this respect then we deserve whatever injury may be inflicted upon our movement by the political devices of its enemies. Another reason given against such a policy is that the introduction of politics would cause mischief and disruption in the movement. This same cry has always been advanced, but there never was a greater mistake. The very fact that the movement saw need for the formation of a Parliamentary Committee is sufficient evidence for the necessity of scrutinising all projected legislation. Political interference has characterised our actions in the past without mischief or disruption. Not one of those terrible consequences prophesied have come upon us and surely that is proof enough of the foolishness of the prediction. Then we are told that if we wish to dabble in politics we ought to do so as citizens and not as co-operators. That I consider derogatory to the great principle which binds us together. Some of our people advocate that co-operation is essentially non-political in its character and that its aims can be best accomplished by our freedom from political institutions and political questions, and they have succeeded pretty well up to now in putting that view before the public. What is the result? Politicians believe that the co-operative vote is of no value and may safely be put on one side. They also believe that we are disunited on the Parliamentary question, and—

The CHAIRMAN at this stage drew Mr. Allan's attention to the fact that he had exhausted his time. Several delegates asked the Chairman to allow Mr. Allan extra time, but he could not see his way to accede to the request.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (London Co-operative Bookbinders) moved the following amendment:—

To delete the words after the first three lines of the proposed resolution, and substitute the following :—"Instructs the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to invite the assistance impartially of all friends of co-operation in Parliament, members of all political parties, to resist attempts to levy taxation on our societies for which there is clearly no equitable justification."

Mr. Greening said : I rise to move the amendment which instructs the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to invite the assistance impartially of all friends of co-operation in Parliament, members of all political parties, to resist attempts to levy taxation on our societies for which there is clearly no equitable justification. My point is, friends, that you cannot nominate candidates for Parliament, put behind them your name, your authority and support, and pay their expenses and afterwards dissociate yourselves from their speeches and views. In theory you may think you can ; in practice it will be impossible. Inside the House you will find Liberals, Conservatives, Labourites, Nationalists, and so on, each with their party organisations. You will have to fall into line on one of those organisations. If you do not your representatives will not get their seats when they come up for re-election. You will be letting discord into the movement by carrying the resolution. At present it is based upon neutrality in politics and religion, and under that neutrality the success of the movement has been phenomenal. The moment you let in discord you will start the little rift which will rift the lute. At the Perth Congress a similar resolution was brought forward under a similar crisis. ("No, no.") It was the time of the Butchers' Boycott. Congress was nearly unanimous over political action. What happened ? Out of 1,600 societies, only about 150 or 160 were found prepared to back the opinions voiced at Congress. Only eighteen societies undertook to subscribe between them the sum of £23 to carry out the programme. When the delegates came face to face with the actual facts that was the result. They could not afford, and knew they could not afford to alienate any considerable section of the purchasing members of the societies. If you once raise this great contention it will be the turning point in the history of the movement. The Party whips up at Westminster would be sending down to your societies and saying you must watch the election of the committees because they have to say who are to be the candidates for Parliament. Do you think they will let you alone ? Nor at all. I implore you to consider what you are doing before you take this step. As it was in Scotland so it will be here. Timely consideration showed us that we were in danger of plunging right into the vortex of party politics. Co-operation is a mighty weapon in the social elevation of the people. There was never such a movement as the co-operative movement as we see it to-day—so full of hope, so full of promise. Will you bar the progress of this great movement ? Societies will have conflicts in the election of committees, of their delegates to Congress and conferences,

there will be withdrawals of members, there will be infinite troubles which we cannot see in advance. Take the suggestion I make. It is the way in which representation in Parliament is being-beaten to-day. Over the Channel Tunnel question there was a group of 170 members—Liberals, Labour men, Conservatives, and Nationalists, and on this one question they united. It is what we ought to do. Bring together all the support we are capable of from the men who are favourable and friendly towards us. Let us keep out of politics and religion. With all my heart I hope you will consider carefully before you take the plunge. You have a Reform Bill now before Parliament and in future the Returning Officers' expenses will be paid out of the public funds, and you will have amended suffrage, women's suffrage, and probably proportional representation. Therefore it is not a question of going cap-in-hand; it will be the duty of those elected to attend to the interests of the movement. I ask you to carry on the work of the movement in the future as you have done in the past.

Mr. F. MADDISON (Blackpool Printers): I am perfectly aware that we are charged with an electric atmosphere about this particular question. We have voted in big majorities against it recently. Many things appear to have happened to induce some of the delegates to change their mind. My first word will be that if there is such a change of mind, is it not far better to let that change be expressed through the societies themselves? We shall have an opportunity of discussing the Co-operative Wholesale Society's amendment later on in which that view is put. I am democratic, not because I believe that the majority is always right—at first it is generally wrong—whether right or wrong I am prepared to bow to it. We have had some arguments put forward this morning why we should have Parliamentary representation. First of all Mr. Charter—he is an honourable man and we believe him—said that it is not the intention in the resolution to propose an affiliation with the Labour Party. That is so much to the good. That carries it further, but remember it is only in the views of many people the national and inevitable conclusion. The idea of this wonderful co-operative representative, standing on the floor of the House of Commons, stopping "lobbying," and doing all sorts of things! Why, there is a Labour Party in the House of Commons, and is there no "lobbying"? The lobby is full when there is any particular question under consideration because they want to influence more than the mere members of the Labour Party. Everybody knows that this is correct. Just imagine what is going to happen. Yesterday the Congress, by a large majority, threw over the Parliamentary Committee on a certain point, when the committee acted in the approved manner of the politician to the best of their knowledge. If they had a member of Parliament he would be thrown over in just the same way. You are going to have a fresh set of discussions; you are not going to decide whether a man suits you because he takes your view of co-operation. You are going to criticise him, vote for or against him on account of some purely political action that he may take. Suppose he goes to vote, as I would

in the House of Commons, in favour of secular education. I moved an amendment to that Bill. What would happen if a co-operative representative supported secular education with Catholic colleagues in this Congress; or if he voted for Protection what would happen amongst the Free Traders here. You will bring in the movement that which cannot be any real value. In the *Scottish Co-operator*—I am not doing this as a party politician—recently there was an extract from Mr. Asquith's speech on income tax in which he stated "I have always been with you, and I will stand by this position as I believe it to be right." This declaration from the leader of a great party was of more value than a dozen representatives in the House of Commons.

Mr. F. IRELAND (Plymouth): I want to lift the debate, if I can, out of the narrow avenue in which it is. Thirty years ago I was clear as to what the movement should do. Co-operation was the leader, economically, socially, and industrially of working-class expression. Then it was found necessary to decline to be what would be a political expression of working-class thought. The resolution this morning leads us in that direction. What has compelled us to go in that direction? The fact of the Excess Profits Duty and the threat of Income Tax have demonstrated to us that politicians, whether Liberal or Conservative or Unionist or any other—when it comes to working-class politics—are united in their determination to exterminate us. I am surprised to see so old a champion of working-class emancipation as Fred Maddison stand here still and ask us to put our trust in the capitalist domineering political party. He knows that in the House of Commons there are no Liberals or Conservatives when it is a capitalists' question. I had the opportunity of being in the House of Commons once. Not as a member. They did not degrade me that far. I was listening to a debate; and in the course of the debate I saw three gentlemen get up and go out. I asked what was on and I was told: "That's a Liberal and a Conservative and a Unionist. There is a strike on and they are going to ask the Government to send a gunboat round to Hull to protect the interests of the shipbuilders." What we want in the House of Commons is a body of intelligent co-operators who will represent the co-operative political expression, realising that the time must come when these organised working-class associations must have control not only of the industrial and economic institutions of the nation, but of its legislative assembly as well.

Mr. J. DEANS (secretary of the Scottish Section): It gives me the utmost pleasure and satisfaction to support the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee. I am not one of those modern converts to the principle of direct representation, I have been convinced for the last twenty years. The co-operators could only effectively defend their interests in the House of Commons by having their own representatives there. I was converted to Parliamentary representation by the memorable boycott of 1896, and I am confident that if the societies in England had had to pass through a

similar experience direct representation in the House of Commons would have been in actual practice some time ago. Certain great events have not been without their influence in forming co-operative opinion. If our opponents are going to strike at the movement by political action then we must combat political action by political action; and if co-operators are not prepared to sink political differences then they must be prepared to take the consequences, however serious they may be. Our opponents make boast that the income tax question will be settled upon the floor of the House of Commons. Then, in my opinion, the place where co-operators must fight their opponents was the ballot-box. I believe the strength of our case is irrefutable, but my experience is that members of Parliament—at all events many of them—do not care a brass farthing for the strength of our case; all they care about is the strength of our voting power and how we are going to exercise it. We have had controversies in the co-operative movement before, and they have not destroyed it. I well remember the great controversy (in which Mr. Greening himself took part) on profit-sharing. Opinions widely asunder were expressed, and yet the movement went on. I hope you will have the good sense and foresight to pass the resolution with unanimity.

Mr. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton): When I heard the resolution moved and the amendment seconded I asked myself if the Parliamentary Committee of the private traders' organisations had been represented in the Congress which would they vote for? I venture to suggest they would warmly have applauded the remarks of Mr. Greening and Mr. Maddison, and supported the amendment which they moved and seconded. That very fact should convince the delegates that the amendment is not worthy of their support. When we discussed this question before, Mr. Greening said that if we went in for direct representation all sorts of things would happen. He has not turned out to be a true prophet, and if he was wrong then, it is a bit risky backing him now. As a co-operator I am not prepared to place the destinies of our great movement in the hands of its enemies, and I ask the delegates at this Congress not to put themselves on the side of those who long to see the working classes separated. Do not vote for the amendment, which I am sure all the capitalistic sections of the country would gladly vote for; but vote for the resolution, which will bring hope to thousands of co-operators who desire to see the day when they will be able to express co-operative opinions upon sectional questions as they affect their lives.

Mr. C. LOCKTON (Derby): I want at this juncture to make a special appeal to those delegates representing societies who have discussed this question at the quarterly meeting and who are sent to this Congress to give expression to the feelings of their members. What I want is that you should keep this question in its true perspective and not depart on any side issues. What I want to bring specially before your notice this morning is that Derby Society, with 34,000 members, has had a meeting to discuss the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee; and, after discussing it

along with the amendment in the same report, they decided unanimously to stand by the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee. I want delegates to stick to their instructions and not to be swayed by any side issues. You are here at the bidding of your members, to do what they want; and let us, then, have no side-tracking. If you pass this resolution of the Parliamentary Committee you leave it to them to draw up a scheme to be submitted again for ratification.

Mr. J. MATON (Edmonton): I was at a conference not long ago at which I stated that I was entirely opposed to Parliamentary representation. I went home from that conference. I read how we were being treated. I saw Mr. Newton Smith was appointed to one of the advisory committees; but that he found he had very little influence. I changed my opinions. I went to a big temperance demonstration and I heard an American gentleman, a doctor, say: "Friends, if you want anything you must have votes behind you." Edmonton had decided to vote in favour of the Parliamentary Committee's resolution. We, to-day, are faced with the threat of annihilation. We thought Parliamentary representation would divide our ranks; but it will never divide our ranks if we are unanimous.

Mr. W. ROGERS (Northampton): Mr. President, can we not hear something from the other side after so many others have spoken?

The PRESIDENT: I do not pretend to know what any man is going to say until he says it.

Mr. D. MCCARTHY (Leicester): No one admires Mr. Greening personally more than myself. I sincerely hope that the delegates will consider this apart from individuals in voting for and against. I consider the case put forward by Mr. Greening and Mr. Maddison as mere beating the wind. Mr. Maddison said: "Supposing a co-operative representative proposed secular education what would a Catholic co-operator say to that?" Mr. Maddison is an old politician and he must know that although John Morley and Sir Charles Dilke favoured secular education Catholics and Plymouth Brethren and all religions were represented in their votes. It is an absolute bogey to put this forward. I was a Catholic in my young days, and when the first election of the first Labour man in Australia took place the candidate was an agnostic. The Catholics and Plymouth Brethren and various sections were united in supporting the Labour Party politician. Why, in the name of reason, cannot we do the same thing in supporting a co-operative candidate? Mr. Greening stated that the number of people who attended the meeting was small, but Mr. Greening does not represent here as large a collective opinion as the "resolution party" side does. A delegate had stated that a special meeting had been called for the purpose of considering this proposal, with an attendance of 1,200. There were 29 votes against; 24 of these votes represented the Labour Party, but of an audience of 1,200 members called together for a special purpose there were really only five votes against it. Mr. Greening and Mr. Maddison

have not such a collective backing on their side. I have been on a public body for 14 years. The question of contracts has come up again and again. We have had the question of brushes—there is a good deal of sweating in the brush-making industry. I have recommended the Guardians to go to the Co-operative Wholesale Society for their supplies, pointing out that the society pays trade-union rates of wages. I have been met with the reply "They do not pay income tax." Every time I have been met with that. I have gone from the Leicester Society and have asked for a building plot for the convenience of our butchery department and have asked to be allowed to build on land under reasonable conditions. I found that we were running up against a blank wall. My experience is that business people and the profiteering interests are against us every time. I appeal to your intelligence to put aside the old way of thinking now. The opposition of Mr. Greening is founded upon mere conjecture—it is a mere bogey. Stand together, working men, use your intelligence. Go forward and reform the Poor Law and all abuses in the country and you will never regret the vote given to-day.

Mr. J. JOHNSTON (North-Western Section): Twelve years ago at the Paisley Congress I moved, on behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, of which I was a member at that time, that co-operators should seek direct representation in Parliament by being affiliated to the Labour Party. Personally I was opposed to the method of procedure, although I was a member of the Labour Party, and I am still, because I thought that it would prevent timid politicians in the co-operative movement from supporting such proposal. The proposal, you remember, was defeated by a very large majority. I believe on that occasion I was right in supporting the principle and dissenting personally from the course of procedure. I hope to be on the winning side to-day. There is no question that if co-operators were to have their interests respected in Parliament they must have members of their own to look after their interests for them. The other great interests are represented there—such as the capitalists, the church, the brewers, and publicans. Surely an organisation representing one-third of the whole population should be directly represented where the laws of the country are made. One of the objections raised is the old one of political disruption. This is an old bogey. There was more fear on the part of those who raised it that this proposal will have a great effect on the political party to which they belong than of disrupting the co-operative movement by getting direct representation in Parliament. It is a mistaken one entirely. Another difficulty suggested is how to choose your co-operative representative. You must choose the man to represent you who would carry out the policy we are aiming at—namely, to secure the co-operative commonwealth. We must choose a man in favour of the nationalisation of the mines, railways, and canals, and of banking, by both the State and the municipality. We are hampered by that more than anything else. If you get men to take that view of things, and who will represent you directly in Parliament,

and if this principle is carried out I believe we shall be in a much more advantageous position than at the present time.

[Cries of "Vote, vote."]

Mr. A. BARNES (Stratford) : Mr. President, I do suggest that you ask if there is really in the hall anyone who wishes to oppose the resolution.

The PRESIDENT : The discussion is practically one-sided. One speaker desires to express the sentiments of the previous one. It is desirable to have a full discussion of this matter. We do not want to curtail discussion. Let us have a fair and full discussion of the matter from both standpoints.

Mr. E. J. HILL (Gloucester) : My society has given us an absolutely free hand as to how we should vote on the question of Parliamentary representation, and we are waiting for enlightenment as to the blind faith which delegates appeared to have in the Central Board's proposal. What benefit did they expect to get from direct representation in the House of Commons ? The teachers have direct representation in Parliament, and yet the scholastic profession is the most sweated industry in the kingdom. You will see from that that teachers have not gained much by having representatives in the House of Commons. Why should it be necessary for us as co-operators to have direct representation in Parliament. We have the Labour Party in Parliament, and as we paid their expenses through the National Exchequer, we have the right to expect service from them. Do not place too much attention upon getting into this Parliament. Look after the next Parliament, when we shall have the results of the voting of matured women.

Mr. G. A. WICKES (Lockhurst Lane) : I want to impress upon Congress that of all political parties the men in the various Chambers of Commerce throughout the country regard the co-operative movement as their greatest enemy. They use their influence on every political party to overthrow the co-operative movement. I say here now, after the most careful consideration, and after eleven years in the political arena, it is high time that the co-operative movement had representation in the House of Commons. The mover of the amendment said we should have woman suffrage and proportional representation—well, all that will be of the greatest assistance to direct representation in Parliament. Young men with brains are coming up to take the place of the old men, and unless the co-operative movement gets direct representation, we shall never get what we require. If the shipping interests, the brewing interest, and other capitalistic interests are represented in Parliament do not let us remain content with that, but let us go and represent ourselves. I support the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee.

Mrs. PROSSER (Gloucester) : Mr. Maddison has referred to a difficulty which might arise on the question of secular education. We have had an instance in the women's guild of that when they were dictated to by the Roman Catholic Federation of Salford on the question of divorce. I sympathise with Mr. Maddison in the point he raised, but I heartily support the resolution also.

Mr. E. BRENNAN (Darlington), in supporting the resolution, said: Let us put politics to one side. We want a People's Party up against the privileged classes. Co-operative Societies should be represented in the House of Commons in order to assist in building up this People's Party.

Mr. R. STEWART (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society): I am delighted to support the proposal of the Parliamentary Committee. We have had here the spectacle of very extreme men agreeing to put their opinions aside and support this proposal. It has been said here that this proposal will create grave dissensions in the ranks of co-operators. Well, I have attended Congresses; I have heard Mr. Greening and Mr. Maddison say at former Congresses what they have said this morning; but both of these gentlemen have, themselves, been responsible for introducing questions likely to create serious differences of opinion. They did not hesitate to introduce them; but when we come to do something to protect the interests of this great movement in the House of Commons we find our old friends warning us of what is likely to take place. In the past this movement had nothing to fear from the private traders, as traders. But now co-operation is stepping out and opening up fields of production in the various countries of the world; we are, perhaps, entering into the shipping world and probably going into mining. We have already tapped insurance and banking; and these interests are all well represented in the House of Commons. There are members there who have said things we did not quite approve of; but we have voted for these men in the past. In our own movement, however, we have men who can represent democratic opinions better than those men who have previously represented them. I hope the Congress will speak out with no uncertain sound on this matter and decide, once for all, in favour of having direct representation in Parliament. In Scotland we are ripe for it. We have not in Scotland the division we see here to-day, and we hope that our English brethren will come in and help us so that by our presence in the House of Commons we will be able to purify the commercial, social, and political life of this great nation. I hope we will go away from this Congress with such a force behind us that even those who are not for us will have to realise that in this movement we can count our votes by millions and that we will have to be reckoned with on the polling day. The vote is one of the most powerful factors we have in our affairs; and we will tell these people that unless co-operators get fair play we will vote against them and send our own men into the House of Commons.

The PRESIDENT; Are you in favour of the vote being taken after Mr. Charter has replied? (Ay!) Then let the tellers take their places so as to be in readiness.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (replying): I yield to no man in my respect for Mr. Greening. I only wish his ideas had grown with him, and I hope he will live long enough to see the views he has so often expressed falsified. In some parts of his speech I really thought Mr. Greening was supporting the Parliamentary Committee. To listen to the fears of division that have

been expressed, one would think we are paragons of concord now. I have seen acute controversial questions raised in which societies and members were deeply interested ; and still the progress or the movement has gone on. By having direct representation in Parliament I think we shall be able to help forward real and progressive legislation. Some people seem to think that such representation will bring ruin upon the movement. Capitalists have representatives in the House of Commons and it does not appear to have ruined the enterprises in which they are interested. Then there is our power as a competitive force against monopoly which, I firmly believe, will be considerably strengthened by direct representation in the House of Commons. I am of the opinion that the members of co-operative societies are ready and willing to follow a strong lead on this question, and I am going to ask Congress by its vote to give that lead to the movement. Mr. Maddison refers to Mr. Asquith and his promise to oppose the imposition of income tax on co-operative societies. It would have been better had Mr. Asquith carried out that promise when he had the opportunity. Further, Mr. Maddison asks what will you get from one or two representatives in the House of Commons ? It is not so much having only one or two men in the House of Commons as it is having them on the floor of the House at the proper moment. I believe I am correct—and if I am not Mr. May will correct me—when I say that the first intimation that we had of the excess profits being placed upon co-operative societies was when a question was asked and answered on the floor of the House of Commons. When a member asked : “ Are we to understand that this tax will be applied to co-operative societies ? ” the answer was “ Yes, sir.” If we had had one member on the floor of the House of Commons at that moment—a man with an inside knowledge of co-operation—to put a supplementary question, the movement might have been saved this injustice. I want you with no uncertain voice to tell the outside world that as a progressive intertrading organisation we are determined to have justice done to us.

RESULT OF THE VOTE.

The CHAIRMAN took a vote by show of hands and declared the motion carried.

Mr. PENNY (Sheffield) : We want the figures.

The CHAIRMAN : There was an overwhelming majority for it. Do you wish to spend time taking the figures ?

Nothing further was done in the matter and the delegates adjourned for lunch.

SECOND DAY OF CONGRESS.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

When the delegates reassembled and the president had taken the chair,

Mr. WHITELEY (Manchester and Salford)) immediately rose and said :—
Mr. Chairman, the representatives of a large number of societies are desirous that the votes given on the Parliamentary proposal at the morning session shall be counted. We want to be in a position, when we get back to our societies, to explain exactly what the situation is so far as this Congress is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN : I have no objection, but the delegates are not by a long way in yet from lunch. I went according to the instructions of the Standing Orders Committee.

A DELEGATE : If the number of the votes against the resolution were taken it would be a simple matter:

The CHAIRMAN : I took the feeling of Congress on the point, and it was decided that we should not have a card vote.

A DELEGATE : Do not the rules say that a card vote shall be taken if demanded?

ANOTHER DELEGATE : It is too late to take a vote now.

The CHAIRMAN : When the mover and seconder demand that the resolution shall be voted upon I have no alternative. I am prepared to take a vote and abide by the result.

A DELEGATE : Let us face the co-operative movement with a unanimous vote for Parliamentary representation.

ANOTHER DELEGATE : Perhaps the mover of the amendment will withdraw?

Mr. GREENING (quoting Tennyson) : "He is a slave who dare not be in the right with two or three." We are in favour of a card vote, and will show our cards.

The CHAIRMAN then took a card vote, and the result was as follows :—
For the amendment, 199; against, 1,883 votes.

The CHAIRMAN was proceeding to put the original resolution to the vote, when a delegate suggested that it would be better to take the amendments altogether, and not singly.

The suggestion was agreed to, and the discussion on the question was proceeded with.

THE AMENDMENT FROM 104 SOCIETIES.

Mr. E. WHITELEY (Manchester and Salford) proposed the following resolution on behalf of 104 societies :—

1. That in view of the persistent attacks and misrepresentations made by the opponents of the co-operative movement in Parlia-

ment, and on local administrative bodies, this Congress is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should secure direct representation in Parliament and on all local administrative bodies.

2. It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the above resolution.

In moving this resolution, I just want to deal with the principle contained in this proposal. There is a slight difference between the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee and the resolution sent in by the 104 societies. You will note on the third line in this resolution the words "and on local administrative bodies." This is an addition to what is embodied in the Parliamentary Committee's resolution. It further calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the resolution. That is the addition practically to the Parliamentary Committee's resolution. In support of these two points, I want to say one or two words. Take the question of local administrative bodies. In my opinion it is just as important for the co-operative movement to take action to secure their representation on local administrative bodies as in Parliament. Take one or two matters which have come under my particular observation as a city councillor at Manchester. The representatives of the Private Traders' Association in the City Council Chamber do all they can to hinder the co-operative movement. One of our committees—a very important committee—passed a resolution that no employé of that committee should be allowed to be on the committee of a co-operative society. That resolution meant that one of the members of the Manchester and Salford Co-operative Society had to resign. Not only the committee passed this resolution, but the Council confirmed the action of the committee. You all know the difficulties in various cities with regard to the holding of co-operative meetings—we know this in Manchester, as in other parts of the country. These two points ought to be sufficient to cause you to insist upon this particular clause being added to the resolution. I want to come to the other part of the resolution of the Parliamentary Committee, the principle of which you have practically unanimously agreed to. We want some definite authority to carry it into operation. Elected through the various sections in the Central Board we have a properly constituted Board to put into operation the resolution already carried. This is only the question of securing representation on the local administrative bodies and putting into operation the principles you have supported this morning. In voting for this you are not voting against the principles you have agreed to. I ask you to go a step further and support the resolution of 104 societies.

Mr. C. GREGORY (Droylsden): I will second the resolution because, I think, it covers the whole ground. I know that the making of the law is important; but it is equally important that it should be well administered. This resolution does not alter the principle agreed to this morning, but it

extends the scope of operations and brings things nearer home. The vote given this morning proves that we have advanced a stage. We have a co-operative motto which says: "In things essential, unity; in things doubtful, liberty." What is essential at the present moment is unity. It has been said that the class which administers the law in any community lives under the best conditions. When co-operators fully grasp that they will insist upon administering it. There is another proverb which says: "God helps those who help themselves." It is all very well to go, cap in hand, to big people to help us. The sooner we help ourselves the sooner will we stop going, cap in hand, to these people.

Mr. D. MCCARTHY (Leicester): May I suggest that the Parliamentary Committee might help the Congress by accepting this resolution?

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section): On behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, we are prepared to accept this addition on the understanding that when considering ways and means the Central Board will act in conjunction with the Parliamentary Committee.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section): I think Mr. Charter is tacking on to his acceptance a condition which the Central Board cannot say they will accept without having considered it.

Mr. CHARTER: But, taking into consideration the voice of the Congress, I take it that the Central Board will be directed by that.

The PRESIDENT: Then that is accepted.

Mr. W. E. DUDLEY (Co-operative Wholesale) rose to move the amendment standing in the name of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and other societies, as follows:—

That before the co-operative movement is pledged to direct representation of co-operators in Parliament, the Co-operative Union issue a circular to societies, members of the Union, asking them to state:—(1) Whether they are in favour of this; (2) or against; (3) and if they are prepared to contribute to the funds necessary to carry this proposal into effect; the voting to be taken in accordance with the provision laid down in the rules of the Union (No. 18), and the result reported to the next Congress.

Mr. DUDLEY said: I am in rather a difficult position in taking up the amendment as it reads literally. The amendment reads that before the co-operative movement is pledged to direct representation the Co-operative Union issue a circular to societies, the result to be reported to the next Congress. I have asked the Standing Orders Committee that they will allow it to read that before the Central Board take action the Co-operative Union issue a circular to societies and report as early as possible. The Standing Orders Committee refer me to Congress to ask you whether you will grant me permission to move this amendment in this particular form. I have to get your consent before I can go any further.

Mr. S. G. PRINCE (Plymouth): Will Mr. Dudley explain the position of the Co-operative Wholesale Society previous to the suggested alteration? Were the Board against direct representation?

Mr. P. MALCOLM (Kilmarnock) : I move that we do not accept the alteration.

Mr. W. ROGERS (Northampton) : I want to ask the Co-operative Wholesale Society's directors whether, before they framed this amendment, they asked their constituents for permission, and had they consulted them for permission to make the alteration?

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (Liverpool) : I wish to know whether Mr. Dudley is withdrawing the latter part of the amendment which has been sent in by the Co-operative Wholesale Society? If that is clear, then we are in a position to know what to do in the matter.

Mr. DUDLEY, resuming, said : I will read it all again, after which he proceeded :—I do not want to create any difficulty. We sent in originally an amendment to the effect that before the co-operative movement is pledged to direct representation in Parliament the Co-operative Union circularise societies asking them to state whether they are in favour of this, whether they are prepared to contribute to the fund necessary to carry this proposal into effect, the voting to be taken in accordance with the rules of the Union, and the result reported to the next Congress. You have taken a decisive vote, and now you put us in a position of asking the Central Board to do something because you have taken a certain step. ("No, no!") I will move it as it is, then.

Mr. BLAIR : What Mr. Dudley is moving is not the original motion sent in by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

A DELEGATE : Can we have some information as to where we shall find this amendment?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : The societies behind the amendment have fulfilled all the conditions required by the standing orders; it is, therefore, quite in order. A copy of the amendment has been posted up in the inquiry office, which is also in accordance with the standing orders.

Mr. A. BARNES (Stratford) : In view of the fact that the decision come to before lunch puts the Wholesale Society's amendment out of order, would it not be more democratic of the Wholesale Society to withdraw their resolution?

Mr. DUDLEY : I hope you will not take it that this amendment is a blocking amendment. Let me explain what it is I am after personally and what I believe the societies which signed the amendment are also after. You have passed a most important resolution regarding Parliamentary representation. I should have been disappointed had you not done so. Why? Because this is just the time and the atmosphere to pass such a resolution. But what are you going to do now? We want—and surely you want—to find the most effective means of carrying out the resolution. It is essential that we should find out before we go any further whether we have the rank and file behind us in this matter, for, obviously, if the general body of co-operators are not with us we shall not go very far. On the other hand, if there is a general desire in the movement for direct representation we

should not think—it would be ridiculous on our part to think—of standing in the way. How are you, then, going to carry out the terms of the resolution? That is the position we are in. If our cause is right, let us put it before the members of our societies as a practical proposition. As I say, we cannot get a member into Parliament without their support. You can pass resolutions this year; you can pass resolutions next year; but unless you get the people behind you and prepared to support you I am afraid you are not going very far forward.

Mr. J. DEANS (Scottish Section) said the boycott of Scotland put the co-operators in a different position, and immensely stimulated them to go in for Parliamentary representation. Why did not Mr. Maxwell feel the benefit of that stimulus when he presented himself as a candidate for Parliament in the Tradeston Division of Glasgow? As thinking men and women do not simply pass this resolution and have it in big headlines emblazoned in the newspapers. Let us give a mandate to our Central Board to specifically ask our constituents what they are prepared to do, and if they are not prepared to stand behind us, why should we put Swansea in this position: that it will be split politically before it is won co-operatively? I believe in the co-operative movement we have some born fighters; but do we intend always to use the same weapons? If we refer this to our societies and we do not get their decision favourable to us let us make our meetings into educational meetings for bringing them into line with ourselves. The leaders of the trade union movement had to preach to their members before Parliamentary representation became a part of their constitution. I am putting before you hard facts, which will have to be answered. It is no use passing resolutions and not receiving support from the general body of our members. Resolutions of that nature are simply waste paper. The way I suggest seems to me to be the only democratic way of treating this question, and the only way in which we can ascertain whether we are carrying our members with us.

Mr. J. SHARPLES (Blackburn Industrial), seconding the resolution, said: I do not want to reopen the general question any more than is necessary to make my point clear as possible. The first question I want to put is this: Are you sure of your ground? If you are, why need you hesitate to put this proposition into operation? If you are against this proposal, it means that you are convinced yourselves, but you are not sure of your constituents. How many of you have come prepared with instructions from your societies? We should pass this amendment and let people outside realise that our decision is the settled conviction of the co-operators of the country. I appeal to every speech from the platform this morning as supporting the ground I wish to take up. The seconder of the Parliamentary Committee's resolution asked: What brought about the trade union power in Parliament? And he told us it was the Taff Vale decision. The Taff Vale decision did not create a trade union power in Parliament; it created the trade union conscience. The excess profits duty has not gone home to all the societies and homes in the country; and until we get a co-operative conscience behind our resolutions they will

be useless. We do not want a re-echo of Paisley. We want to have a force behind us. Mr. Stewart has spoken about Scotland; but what about Ireland? Would this solve Ireland's troubles? Would that the sending of a co-operative candidate would help that country. I am almost certain that South Wales is behind the Parliamentary Committee's resolution; but I am not so certain that the rest of England is. I want the audience to prove that it was right in passing the resolution.

Mr. W. R. ALLAN (Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society): We understood that there was a direct negative coming against the Parliamentary Committee's proposal. We accepted that. Before lunch we discussed the question whether there should be a show of tickets. Immediately we reassemble we find that a show of cards is wanted. Now we have this proposal of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which, in other words, means practically putting back the hands of the clock. I do believe in unanimity, as far as we can have it; I believe in marching unitedly. If we are going to do a thing like this it cannot be done in a week or a month—it will take a considerable time. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." I do believe in abiding by the Parliamentary Committee's resolution, and there will be time to convert the societies in conflict with the proposal in different parts of England. If you ask me why Mr. Maxwell did not get in for Tradeston I will tell you. We shall never have co-operative representation in any constituency so long as there was the lethargy of the co-operators themselves. That is the answer to Tradeston. There was no personal objection to Mr. Maxwell. If you will keep to the original proposition you will find that it will come to just the same level standard. You will move unitedly by the adoption of the Parliamentary Committee's proposal.

Mr. S. G. PRINCE (Plymouth): I desire to congratulate the Co-operative Wholesale Society on their conversion to democratic principles. The Co-operative Wholesale Society have only just discovered their love for democracy. It reminds me of the man who had a dog for sale. He inserted the following advertisement in a paper: "For sale, a big dog, will eat anything; fond of children." I want to appeal to this Congress to brook no delay in this matter. I have a brother fighting with the soldiers in France; they never went out to fight to preserve the slums of England and thousands of other things. I am not interested in co-operators going into politics and Parliamentary representation purely for themselves. I tell you honestly, I believe that co-operators have a vision, and can lift these things in a way which the worn-out parties cannot do. It is for that I want to see the co-operative movement secure direct representation. I am sent here to go "the whole hog," as far as I possibly can go. I am inclined to think that if we are not careful the wave of democracy will sweep us off our feet. That is where the pendulum is swinging. No manœuvres of the Co-operative Wholesale Society can do us out of representation in the House of Commons. Two years more of profiteering! We have had enough already. I appeal to the older men lest they divorce the sentiment and feeling of the younger

wing of the movement. There is nothing like the co-operative movement. Most of you have spent your lives in its work. I listened with pleasure and respect to Mr. Greening. We respect Mr. Greening, who speaks of an age when co-operators have done wonderful things. We owe a duty to him, and at the same time we have our future to look to. We have the great industrial movement to think of. There is a vision I would like to put before you. In the times to come we have the chance of making one great industrial army, in running this country, and in running their own lives. Depend upon it, the emergence of the political movement will lift the labour movement and the whole political activities. I appeal to the Congress to refuse to delay this question, in view of the fact that the next two years will probably be the most critical in the history of the war. Let it be our part to lay a foundation for that State so that when "the boys" come back they will have something to live for.

The vote was then taken, the amendment being defeated by an overwhelming majority.

THE BIRMINGHAM AMENDMENT.

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Birmingham) moved the following amendment, sent in by the Birmingham societies:—

- (1) That in view of the persistent attacks and misrepresentations made by the opponents of the co-operative movement in Parliament, and on local administrative bodies, this Congress is of opinion that the time has arrived when co-operators should secure direct representation in Parliament and on all local administrative bodies.
- (2) It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the above resolution, but in view of the possible far-reaching consequences of the introduction of political action into the movement, action shall only be taken after the proposal has been submitted to and approved by a majority of the societies members of the Union, and voting on the basis as per Rule 18.

Mr. Millington said the Birmingham motto is forward in Parliamentary action. We think the last part which we desire to tack on to the resolution would improve it. It would make it more democratic if you have the whole of your societies behind you. Then you can go to your society. I only ask for the same fairness which has been extended to others. If you have the position placed clearly before you you will see two things. By voting for the proposal we have brought forward you will have the weight of the movement behind you. Twelve hundred people can only voice twelve hundred opinions if everybody speaks. There are societies which through force of circumstances have not had the opportunity of consulting their members on the question of Parliamentary representation. Not only ought we to get the weight of the movement behind us by consulting our societies, but when it comes to the crisis you will want financial backing. Will you get it by passing

this resolution? ("Yes!" "Yes!") I hope you will, but it will be more certain if you have got them to accept the principle by resolution and then back it up by a guarantee of a fund to carry the principle into practice. We want the solid weight of the movement behind the proposal. It will be more democratic when you have a safe financial backing. Proportional representation and women's suffrage have been referred to, and when they had those behind them other influences would fall into line. Let us make the resolution safe and certain by having the whole weight of the movement behind us.

Mr. F. SIDDONS (Birmingham Industrial): I will second the resolution. I am not going to say much, because enough has already been said; but I wish the delegates to ensure that their ideas will be carried out in the right direction. I want to appeal to the delegates not to allow the opposition to have the opportunity of saying that what has been passed is only a pious resolution and that it will be taken no more notice of. I hope this will be taken up with such a result that the Co-operative Union will be able to demand not only the moral support, but the financial support, necessary to carry on the glorious campaign that will follow this war.

A DELEGATE: What is the difference between the Birmingham resolution and that moved by Mr. Dudley?

Mr. W. R. BLAIR (Liverpool): Our society is one that has grown a great deal in recent years. It is in a district where the politics are very mixed. It is the capital of Ulster, and it is the capital of Wales. While committees are progressive, and delegates to Congress are progressive, and quarterly meetings are, to a certain extent, progressive, the rank and file are not all of the same spirit. While that condition exists it is our duty to consider this matter carefully, and our society is supporting the Birmingham amendment. Away from the enthusiasm of Congress, we want to consider the things of the movement. Nobody is more sick of the orthodox parties than I am. Proportional representation will come, and co-operators generally will have the opportunity of slipping men into the House of Commons where they had not the opportunity before. We want to be sure of the rank and file, and we do not want an Osborne judgment against the movement. And you know we have people in the movement quite capable of obtaining an Osborne judgment against us.

The PRESIDENT: Shall we put the matter to the vote? Are you prepared to continue the discussion. (Voices: "No!")

A DELEGATE: Has Mr. Millington any mandate from his members to move this amendment? I believe he has not.

The PRESIDENT: You must speak to Mr. Millington about it. All those in favour of this amendment, show cards! The amendment is lost by a large majority.

The PRESIDENT: Now I have to put the original motion of the Parliamentary Committee, with the addition from the 104 societies, and to count the votes.

The tellers, having counted the votes, the result was declared as follows :

For the resolution (with the addition)	1,979
Against	201

The announcement was greeted with loud cheering.

Mr. J. OAKES (Hyde) : In view of the vote on Parliamentary representation, I am very anxious to know whether the constitution or rules of any society provided for the spending of any of its funds for political purposes? We do not want any Osborne judgments in the co-operative movement.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : That is a question which cannot be answered without a perusal of any given society's rules, and any society which has doubt about the matter should write to the Central Office of the Co-operative Union

The GENERAL SECRETARY said the following had been received from the Manchester and Salford Society as an addition to the proposals on Parliamentary representation :—

That, in the event of this Congress adopting the principle of direct representation of co-operators in Parliament, the Central Board be empowered to employ, during the ensuing Congress year, a sum not exceeding £1,000 from the general funds of the Union as a Parliamentary Fund for the purpose of election of candidates duly approved by them, but without affiliation or official connection with any political party.

In view of the resolution already adopted, the addition was scarcely necessary, added the General Secretary.

Mr. PENNY (Sheffield) : Is not a resolution of this kind necessary in order to give the Central Board power to spend money for Parliamentary purposes?

Mr. WHITELEY : As the mover of the resolution, I want to help the Central Board all I possibly can. We want to make our position clear with respect to funds.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) : The amendment is entirely unnecessary. It will be the duty of the Central Board to carry out the resolution of this Congress, and in order to do this they will have to submit a scheme, and it will be for you to approve or otherwise of that scheme. The scheme will certainly entail an expenditure of money. I certainly think we ought to leave the matter there, with the full knowledge that it will be the duty of the Central Board to carry it out at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. WHITELEY : Will the secretary read the rule on the subject?

The GENERAL SECRETARY then read the rule relating to this matter.

Mr. WHITELEY : I will withdraw the resolution, seeing that we have this rule on the subject.

CONSTITUTION OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. GREGORY (vice-chairman) said : There are two resolutions and two amendments *re* the constitution of the Parliamentary Committee. There

is a committee which is inquiring into the constitution of the various organisations within the movement, and part of its work has dealt with the constitution of the Parliamentary Committee. It is only necessary to draw your attention to that to get you to consent to the withdrawal of the two motions and the two amendments, in order that the whole matter may come up in the complete report of the Survey Committee at the next Congress. We believe it will be in the best interests of the movement to leave the matter in the hands of that committee, who will report to Congress twelve months hence. We hope you will allow this matter of constitution to be held over until the final report comes next year dealing with the constitution of the whole movement. Will the societies state their willingness to withdraw the resolutions standing in their names?

Mr. W. BENTLEY (Bolton) : By what authority is the Parliamentary Committee appointed in the first place? I have attended Congress for some time now, but I have no recollection of any Parliamentary Committee having been appointed by Congress. There is nothing on the agenda at the Congress dealing with the appointment of the Parliamentary Committee, and I should like an explanation to be given.

The GENERAL SECRETARY : Congress decided upon the constitution of the Parliamentary Committee, but does not decide as to who shall form the committee. The committee consists of representatives of the Wholesale Society, the Co-operative Union, and the Scottish Wholesale Society. Each organisation appoints its own representatives upon the committee.

Mr. R. BIRCH (Eccles) moved the Eccles resolution, which was as follows :—

That the Joint Parliamentary Committee consist of thirteen members, apportioned as follows :—

Seven members to represent the Co-operative Union Limited.

Three members to represent the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

Two members to represent the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

One member to represent the Co-operative Productive Federation.

The members representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the Co-operative Productive Federation to be elected by their respective organisations. Of the seven members representing the Co-operative Union Limited three shall be elected by and from the United Board, and four members shall be elected by the societies members of the Union. This Joint Parliamentary Committee to appoint their own chairman and secretary.

Further, that the Office Committee make such arrangements as may be necessary for the carrying out of this resolution.

The expenses of members of this committee to be borne proportionately by the organisations they represent.

Mr. Birch said the present constitution is four members, representing the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, four members representing the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and four members representing the Co-operative Union Limited, with Mr. H. J. May secretary and a chairman appointed by themselves. For some considerable time there have been rumours that the Co-operative Wholesale Society were prepared to appoint their own Parliamentary Committee to deal with matters entirely on their own, and, in our opinion, two committees would be disastrous for the welfare of the societies. We see no reason why there should not be one committee, with the whole weight and responsibility of the movement behind it. Certainly if two committees are appointed there will be dissension and disunion, and the power will be very much diminished. The legislation at the present time in connection with all forms of taxation are of the utmost importance to the co-operative societies, and this is borne out by two statements which appear in the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report, which says: "In dealing with many matters it must be admitted that the results achieved are very small compared with the efforts made. It is of no use blinking the fact that the co-operative movement carries but little weight either with the legislature or the administrative departments of the State. Also we are not satisfied with the results of the past year's working, which, considering the numerical strength and the political potentiality of our movement, to say nothing of our rights as citizens, are very small indeed." In these two statements we have the best argument possible as to why there should not be two Parliamentary Committees, and why there should only be one, and it is our duty to see that the whole of the Parliamentary work of the movement is conducted through a thoroughly representative and solid committee directly responsible to this Congress. If the Co-operative Wholesale Society go forward with their recommendation to create their own committee, then their labours will be absolutely stultified, and they themselves will not be responsible to Congress. The interests of the Co-operative Wholesale Society are bound up in the interests of the retail societies, and the old motto "Unity is strength" applies. In connection with excess profits, of which the report contains many references, we are convinced that if the Joint Parliamentary Committee had been constituted on the lines such as we propose, that the backing behind the Parliamentary Committee of the whole of the movement would have been so strong that such committee would not have permitted themselves to be dictated to by the Chancellor, because it has been readily admitted by the present Parliamentary Committee that they gave way and agreed to the payment of excess profits because of a further threat by the Chancellor. In our opinion the Parliamentary Committee representative of the whole of the movement on the lines we suggest would have been able to have brought such an enormous amount of pressure to bear on the Government that the justice of their claims, that co-operators should not be compelled to pay such a tax as excess profits, would have been withdrawn by the Government. In fact, every point in the report of the Central Board dealing

with the Joint Parliamentary Committee is brimful of interest, and can be cited as instances for the creation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the lines we suggest. The resolution that we move is that the Parliamentary Committee should consist of thirteen members, seven of whom shall represent the Co-operative Union, and in this connection three of these seven would be elected by the United Board, who will take good care that the three persons appointed shall be capable of undertaking the responsible work of such a committee, the remaining four to be elected by the co-operative societies on similar lines to the election for National Conciliation Board, and, from our knowledge of the movement, there will be little difficulty in getting four stalwarts of the movement to undertake this work. The Co-operative Wholesale Society would be permitted to have three members, the Scottish Wholesale Society two, and the Co-operative Productive Federation one. Here, again, our recommendation is a comprehensive one, and the work of the Parliamentary Committee is of such vast importance that the productive societies cannot be left out of consideration. Their interests are ours, their responsibilities are ours, what affects them affects the movement generally, and they have a right to be represented on this special committee. There is no difficulty whatever in carrying out such a constitution, and no doubt the special Survey Committee who have presented such a splendid report to Congress dealing with certain phases of the movement would also be prepared to deal with this question. We understand that the special Survey Committee are desirous of the Eccles Society withdrawing this recommendation and to await the recommendations of the special Survey Committee, which shall be placed before the next Congress, but during that time much water may roll under the bridges, and the coming twelve months will be of enormous importance to the co-operative societies. There is no time for delay, and if it is necessary for a reconstruction of the Joint Parliamentary Committee at next Congress it is of much more importance that the reconstruction shall take place now and without delay. One would have thought that the Survey Committee would have readily agreed to go whole heartedly for such a recommendation without waiting until they brought forward their report, and on these grounds we refuse to withdraw the resolution and earnestly request an overwhelming vote in favour of our proposals.

Mr. M. HUDSON (Eccles), who seconded, said: I wish to point out that the constitution at present is not a democratic constitution. This resolution which I am seconding will put it on a democratic basis, and while the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Co-operative Union will have representatives on the committee, the societies will be entitled to representatives for the first time. Up till now societies have had no representation.

Mr. C. HUGHES (Blackley) proposed the following amendment:—

That the Joint Parliamentary Committee shall forthwith be reconstituted on the lines of four representatives of the Central Board, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the Scottish Co-operative

Wholesale Society respectively, and four members elected from the delegates to this Congress.

This proposal will secure a representation of the Central Board, the Wholesale Societies, and the democratic Congress. I maintain that this Congress should be represented on this committee for the special purpose of watching the whole interests of the co-operative movement. We consider that this is more democratic than the resolution sent in by the Eccles Society.

Mr. E. WHITELEY seconded, and the amendment was lost.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section): It is perfectly true that the constitution of the Parliamentary Committee is at present not democratic. It is no use passing resolutions to-day and then in twelve months' time to have another report submitted which may alter the whole constitution of the committee. We ask you to vote to defeat the Eccles resolution, and leave it over until we have a complete report of the Survey Committee dealing with the constitution of the Parliamentary Committee and other committees of the Union.

Mr. R. MARSH (Wakefield): There is likely to be a misleading feeling in the Congress if the resolution is passed to-day. We ought to give the Parliamentary Committee a chance to act. The effect of getting this new representation on the committee would be to cause delay in getting to business. We have had a lot of talk about democracy to-day. Some people think that we ought to count the number of heads without regard as to what is in them. When the Parliamentary Committee is trying to do something at least we ought to give them a chance of retrieving themselves.

A show of cards then took place on the Eccles resolution.

The PRESIDENT: I declare it lost by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. G. BRIGGS (Co-operative Secretaries' Association): In response to the appeal of Mr. Pollitt, and on the distinct understanding that the whole matter will come before Congress next year, we are prepared to withdraw the proposal of the Co-operative Secretaries' Association.

A VISITOR FROM AUSTRALIA.

Mr. F. E. PULSFORD, who is the ex-president of the New South Wales Co-operative Societies' Association, and who is at present an officer with the Australian Red Cross Society, attended Congress as a visitor and was asked to say a few words, said: Fellow-co-operators, I have come straight from a land which is very much under the shadow of death and from among the sad wreckage wrought by the destructive forces involved in modern society. I now find myself in a gathering uniquely representative of those wholesome, elevating, and constructive forces which happily are also at work amongst us. The contrast is like passing from a hideous nightmare into the waking consciousness of a fresh spring morning. The contrast acquired added significance as I contemplate the by no means distant cousinship between war and the ordinary methods of industry. I had to leave Australia somewhat hurriedly, and without thought of being present at this Congress, or I

would certainly have been entrusted with greetings from the co-operators of Australia to their comrades and exemplars of the old homeland. Not that Australian co-operators can speak officially with one voice, for they are not yet united. I am, however, personally acquainted with many of the leaders of the different units and groups, and I know that it will be their wish that the warmest and heartiest greetings should be conveyed in their name to the great annual Congress of British co-operators. Certain I am that no Australian co-operator could have witnessed the magnificent reception which the Congress has just given, not to me, but to Australia and Australian co-operation, without being deeply stirred to a new realisation of the fine tradition of brotherhood woven throughout the entire fabric of the movement. There are some fifty or sixty consumers' societies in Australia, some of them as soundly prosperous as English societies. There is a young Wholesale Society just getting on to its feet, and producers' co-operation among farmers is highly developed and successful. There are associations loosely binding the distributive societies together in two or three localities, but there is no properly organised Australian Co-operative Union. In no country in the world has co-operation such possibilities as in Australia, and I attribute the fact that it is not more advanced largely to the manner in which working-class hopes and aspirations have been centred almost exclusively upon political action. Co-operation has seemed too piecemeal and tedious. A triumphant Labour party would effect quickly and completely what co-operation could only accomplish partially and slowly. Experience has falsified such hopes. Labour has triumphed, and for long periods has controlled the Federal Parliament and various State Parliaments, but the democratic control of industry has not been achieved. Let no one misunderstand me. The Labour Party has more than justified its existence, and many Labour members are warm friends of co-operation. The Labour Party has put in many useful reforms on the Statute Book, but their effect has been to regulate rather than to revolutionise the control of industry. The actual control of industry has remained almost entirely in the same hands. British co-operators may rest assured that their slow, steady, persistent annexation of more and more of the wide domain of industry is not wasted effort. The democratic control of nearly £200,000,000 of trade per annum by over a fourth of the population was "something accomplished, something done." Political action has much to do for the liberation of British labour, and it is going to do it, but Australian experience does not offer ground for expectation that political action will do the same sort of thing which British labour has already well commenced through co-operation to do for itself. Labour needs both weapons, and should use them both freely and keep them separate. Political action clears the ground and co-operation erects the edifice. In Australia of late there has been much show of new life in the co-operative movement. There has been considerable discussion about a first Australian Co-operative Congress. The syllabus has been drafted and accepted by practically every Australian society. Immediately peace is declared the Congress is to be held, and I hope there

will be an Australian Co-operative Union in time for it to be represented, along with the British Union, at the first post-war Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance. That will be a memorable gathering indeed, for I am convinced that of the great forces making for the abolition of that cruel enemy of the world's toilers—war, none is more potent than the co-operative movement. As to the present conference, I have been immensely cheered by the resolution carried on the subject of education, especially the clause demanding recognition of the importance of the teachers' personality in education. That means a healthful revolution indeed. The Congress certainly never carried a more pregnant resolution. I wish to recount an incident by way of illustration. A banker in an Australian country town has told me that on coming to the district he was much struck by the peculiar courtliness and refinement of manners of those of his customers who came from one little settlement a few miles out of the town. They were, he said, a type apart from and superior to the rest of the district. One day an old man and his wife came into the bank. They were gentleman and gentlewoman in the best sense to their finger tips. Features, appearance, deportment, every word and action reflected refinement and good taste. They were the schoolmaster and schoolmistress of the district in question, and had been so for a quarter of a century. The banker wondered no longer. These two had put the very stamp of their personality upon an entire generation. True teaching is not the imparting of information, but of personality. Nothing is so catching, so infectious, as personality. Once let it become the fashion for the finest personalities of each generation to be set aside for the moulding of the next generation and a new and wonderful era will dawn. That is what your resolution means, and you must press it to its fullest issue, eagerly and unfalteringly. Medicine and the law have no right to be considered princes of the professions. In most cases the doctors and the lawyers only get hold of a man when he has in some way or other got himself, quite needlessly, into a mess. The teacher, on the other hand, is in at the start. The personality upon whom the teacher has done good and faithful work is likely to have little need of doctors or lawyers. Teaching is the prince of the professions, and no sum which a country might have to pay in order to attract into that profession the finest personalities in the land can possibly be an extravagance. I shall go away from the Congress with a new heart and fresh courage and with increased determination to do my humble best towards making the Australian movement a worthy fellow of the great British movement. When that ruthless monster autocracy has been finally and for ever cast out of Europe, when the guns have ceased to roll and the bayonets no longer reek of blood, might there be speedily available a fully organised British Empire co-operative movement, ready to link hands with the movements of other nations in a sacred and solemn effectual vow of "never again."

GREETINGS TO AUSTRALIA.

Mr. W. GREGORY (vice-president): It is requested that I should briefly and sincerely convey to our friend, Mr. Pulsford, an expression of our pleasure

and delight in having the honour of his presence here and the privilege of listening to that inspiring speech. It appears to me to be a grand augury that, when the war is over, our Colonies will show their determination to put forth every effort to assist the mother country and that they and we will rally to one another to develop those humanising efforts that will establish that spirit of brotherhood and humanity and consolidate the peace of the human race. We would appoint Mr. Pulsford the medium by which to convey to the co-operators of Australia our best wishes for their progress and success. We hope the time may come when we may get closer together, and when we may work together in the great cause of co-operation and the brotherhood of man the world over. Will you express to Mr. Pulsford your desire that he should be our emissary with these greetings? (A loud chorus: "Ay!")

Mr. GREGORY conveyed the message of Congress to Mr. Pulsford, who bowed his acknowledgments to the assembled delegates who stood cheering.

THE JOINT EXHIBITIONS COMMITTEE AND THE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

(See Report 24, page 153.)

The Congress resumed the consideration of the Report, and on reaching the part dealing with the Joint Exhibitions Committee—

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP (Midland Section) moved, on behalf of the Board—

That this Congress expresses its regret that the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society have not given a definite reply to the Central Board with regard to the proposed withdrawal of their representatives from the Joint Exhibitions Committee, and it urges that they reconsider the matter, as promised at last Congress, with the object of continuing their representation on the committee, and taking part in the joint exhibitions when the opportune time arrives.

In support of the resolution Mr. Millerchip said: I may remind the delegates that at the last Congress a resolution similar to this was moved and we had a very lamentable and regrettable scene. I do not want anything of that kind now. If delegates read the Central Board report it will convey to them a better outline than I can give of the constitution and work of the committee up to the present time. We believe that the work which has been accomplished has been of an invaluable character. It has helped to develop production in every direction. We feel that the Central Board of the Co-operative Union and the Congress have not been fairly treated by the Co-operative Wholesale Society in this matter. We know they have considered the question and have not given a definite reply, but had deferred the matter till after the war when exhibitions will be held again. Nobody can question the value of the exhibitions in advertising the productions we are manufacturing from time to time. There never was a time when it was more essential that there should be unity in our ranks. We cannot afford to have two or three sections of the movement holding exhibitions and conferences, and there is surely

room in the movement for all phases of thought. I look upon the commodities shown at these exhibitions not so much for the intrinsic value of the articles, but as representing and demonstrating the principles that underlie their production, and therefore we desire that in the future this Exhibitions Committee should be maintained and that the exhibitions should be continued to demonstrate to the country after the war is over that there is unity in our ranks; that the articles exhibited will receive sufficient sympathy and encouragement, no matter by what phase of the movement they may be produced; that we believe in the principles we profess to embrace; and are, in the true spirit of co-operation, prepared to act with our colleagues and present a solid front to the world and show that we are progressing in this direction.

Mr. AMOS MANN (Leicester) seconded the resolution. He said: You will remember that I presented what I thought to be an overwhelming case in favour of the continuance of the Joint Exhibitions Committee. Congress itself decided that this work ought to go on. The suggestion was that the Wholesale Society should reconsider their decision, but though they have considered it they have not thought fit to make any advance in the direction of continuing on this Joint Exhibitions Committee. We are most heartily desirous that this union, which has existed in the past, so far as co-operative production is concerned, should be continued throughout our movement. We believe this is the best way to show that we are united in our desire to spread co-operative production. It is impossible to hold exhibitions during the war because of the question of carriage and other things, but there is not the slightest reason why we should not be ready as soon as the opportunity presents itself. We are hoping the war will speedily come to an end, and when the Jubilee Congress is held in Manchester we shall have such an exhibition that will show the progress that has been made in co-operative production. We hope Congress will carry this resolution and that the Co-operative Wholesale Society will continue that joint work which has been going on since the committee was formed at the Middlesbrough Congress. There is no reason why we should not continue that union right through.

Mr. T. E. MOORHOUSE (Co-operative Wholesale Society): I have been asked by my colleagues to represent the views of the Wholesale Society on this matter. The simple fact is there seems to have been a good deal of misapprehension as to what the action of the Wholesale Society is. A number of delegates have spoken to me only to-day on this matter, and I was able to assure them that, so far as the annual exhibition at Congress was concerned, this report has no relation to it. The Wholesale Society will continue to exhibit with all the others at the annual Congresses; with regard to the exhibitions at local conferences that is a matter on which they have adjourned consideration. I hope, ladies and gentlemen, having given you that assurance that so far as our general Congress is concerned we are at one with you in this matter, I hope that you will await the deliberation on the other point. No exhibition could be held during the war, and if the machinery

is to go on after the war is over it could be arranged after a few days' notice. If the Wholesale Society decide otherwise with regard to the local exhibition you will have an opportunity of expressing your opinion. Personally, I have been delighted with the Congress. I hope I have said nothing to disturb the harmony and goodwill which exists amongst all the co-operative brethren.

Mr. A. W. HALL (Worcester) : I should like to point out that I know a case where an exhibition has been held by private traders within the last six months. Why cannot we have an exhibition? I know that it is stated that the railways will not carry the exhibits; I know perfectly well that the private traders can get facilities, and why not the Co-operative Union? I see no reason why we should not have an exhibition. I strongly support the resolution.

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) : I do not think that the position was put clearly by Mr. Moorhouse. The question is whether the Co-operative Wholesale Society is prepared to continue its representation on this Joint Exhibitions Committee. The matter was before the Congress last year, when it was withdrawn on the promise that the Co-operative Wholesale Society would take the matter back and discuss it. We are waiting for their decision; we have been waiting nearly a year. I submit that it is time the Co-operative Wholesale Society made up their mind whether they will continue the representation or not, so that we know exactly where we are. Many of us who have spent years in the co-operative work remember the time when there was a sharp difference of opinion between two schools of thought. We have seen that sharp difference of opinion removed and a more pleasant understanding arrived at. We do not want to go back to those days. We have no time to quarrel with ourselves inside the movement; we have to go forward on the question of co-operative production. I submit that neither the Wholesale Society nor any other constituent body can afford to ignore the voice of Congress. I ask you to put to the Wholesale Society when we may expect an answer from them, and we expect them to say that at the end of the war they will be prepared to join us again in carrying out a joint exhibition of co-operative productions.

Mr. G. WOODHOUSE (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : I was one who in the early days helped to bring about the amalgamation at the Paisley Congress. I regret the misunderstanding which occurred last year at Lancaster. I can assure you that the members of the Wholesale Board are quite in favour of going on with the exhibition at the annual Congress. The Board felt that there were rather too many exhibitions for the members of the Wholesale Board to find time to attend. It is no idle job to be on the Wholesale Board by any means. I think the proposer and seconder might withdraw the resolution. Along with Mr. Moorhouse I think that we should exhibit again at the annual Congress and be represented on the committee making the arrangements.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY : The Congress exhibition is not controlled by the Joint Exhibitions Committee. What we want to do in connection with

our sectional demonstrations is to have joint exhibitions there, and this was the point which the Joint Exhibitions Committee controlled.

A DELEGATE : If a definite statement was given that the Board will be represented on the committee this might clear the air.

Mr. MOORHOUSE : It is impossible to give an assurance which we are not authorised to give. We have told you that this matter will be reconsidered. The Wholesale Board is not a mechanical toy to be pulled in order to be made to act. We have men with differences of opinion like there is here. When I say that it will be reconsidered I have given you the message which they have given me to convey to you. I have my views and Mr. Woodhouse has his views of the matter. The matter will be fully discussed and it will be reported to you in due course; if you are dissatisfied you can take your own action.

Mr. T. KILLON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : This matter has been considered by the Wholesale Board and it simply refers to one section of the exhibition. The Wholesale has its own exhibitions; it also has its Congress exhibition. I think the best way to deal with this matter is to let it go before the Wholesale committee direct. It is a simple matter. It is very expensive, and it is a question whether there is the value in it. If the Congress will allow it to remain there I will undertake to bring before the Wholesale Board your views in regard to it. I do not see the use of the resolution. There can be no exhibition during the war, unless you are prepared to go to a very large expense and great inconvenience. There is no strong feeling in the matter. There is a war on, and I think you had better leave this question where it is.

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) : I think if you will read the report you will see why this matter is put on paper. At the last Congress a resolution was withdrawn because Mr. Lander, representing the Wholesale Society, after Mr. Hayhurst had spoken, promised that the Wholesale Society would reconsider it. We still wait for the answer. They have been asked to send that answer. They have not done so. They say they are willing to exhibit at the Congress exhibition, but that is not all. There are exhibitions in the different sections almost as important as the Congress, and what the Congress asks is whether the Wholesale Board will reconsider the question of resigning from the Joint Exhibitions Committee, which carries on these exhibitions, or not. To that request of Congress we have had no reply, nor has the Congress, therefore this resolution is quite in place so that the Wholesale may know that you want an answer to this question.

Mr. W. G. ROGERSON (Walkden) : The Congress should put its foot down upon actions of this kind by anybody. If, twelve months ago, an undertaking was given by Mr. Lander, there should have been a definite decision arrived at in twelve months' time. If it were possible at this hour of the day, and at a conference of this character, to deal stringently with the matter I would be prepared to do so. It wants dealing with. The directors come here and stand on the platform and think we should say "god!" That is

exactly what they do. They think this is some big man in the movement whom we ought to know. We want to know if the Wholesale Board have discussed this matter and if they are prepared to be represented on this committee.

Mr. W. FIELDEN (Parkstone and Bournemouth) : Will the Co-operative Wholesale Society directors take the decision of this Congress as final?

ANOTHER DELEGATE : If the Co-operative Wholesale Society directors are not prepared to do the business we at the quarterly meetings will show them that they have got to do it.

Mr. W. MILLERCHIP, replying : I want to make it clear that the Congress exhibition is not in question. Mr. Killon questions whether we have had value for the money spent, so far as exhibitions are concerned. Surely the Co-operative Wholesale Society ought not, in a matter of this character, question the costs when the smaller federations are prepared to go on with the work without questioning whether the results were good or not. What we want is that the Co-operative Wholesale Society should not try to override or evade, willingly or knowingly, or unknowingly, any decision that the Congress comes to. If the Wholesale is part of a democratic body like the Co-operative Union it should fall into line with a resolution similar to the one passed at the Congress last year ; it should, within a year at any rate, have come to a decision and have given that decision whether favourable or not.

The resolution was put to the Congress and declared carried.

CO-OPERATORS AND TRADE-UNIONISTS.

(See Report 26, page 159.)

The report stated that the Trades Union Congress held at Birmingham last September passed the following resolution :—

The Trades Union Congress is of opinion that the development of the co-operative movement is essential to an active trade union movement, and invites the Co-operative Union to appoint a committee of six to meet a similar number appointed by the Trades Union Congress to prepare plans for mutual assistance in developing the productive, distributive, and banking activities of the co-operative movement ; always providing that the co-operative movement, as represented by the Co-operative Union Limited, is prepared to recognise the trade union rates of wages and conditions of employment as laid down by the trade unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress.

Mr. DAVISON (Northern Section) : I have been asked to move the following resolution :—

That this Congress adopts the resolution passed at the Trades Union Congress held in Birmingham, September, 1916, and authorises the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to appoint six representatives to meet a similar number to be appointed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee.

In the report you have the work of the Joint Committee of Trade-unionists and Co-operators reported in a brief way. You will also gather from the report the circumstances which gave rise to this resolution, and how it has resolved itself into the form it is now. We are all expecting great things to happen after this war, and we cannot begin too early in preparing plans for meeting them.

Mr. F. A. GIBBINS (Brighton) : I rise to second the resolution. It is an important resolution, and I hope the delegates will pass it with an overwhelming majority. I take it that if we do that it will mean that every society which belongs to the Co-operative Union will have to pay the trade union wages and observe the trade union conditions of labour recognised by the Trades Union Congress. I may be mistaken, but that is what I read into the resolution. You cannot pass resolutions such as this as pious resolutions. Let us have an understanding that this resolution means that you have to pay trade union rates of wages and observe trade union conditions of labour. I am sorry some co-operative societies do not yet pay the minimum rates of wages.

Mr. W. G. ROGERSON (Walkden) : I want to know whether there has been anything said by the section representing the Trades Union Congress with respect to the attitude of the A.U.C.E. I want to know whether the Trades Union Congress has approached our section with a view to bringing certain influences to bear there?

The PRESIDENT : Do you agree with this resolution being dealt with now? [Cries of "Yes."]

The resolution was then put and carried.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

(See Report 28, page 161.)

Mr. W. GREGORY : I propose the following gentlemen as honorary members of the Central Board for the coming Congress year :—

Midland.....	Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse.
Northern	Messrs. H. R. Bailey and W. Crooks.
North-Western.....	Messrs. C. J. Beckett and H. Stuttard.
Scottish	Messrs. D. H. Gerrard and A. Meldrum.
Southern	Messrs. A. H. D. Acland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, and H. J. May.
South-Western.....	Messrs. A. Bullock, R. R. Prynne, and C. Vaughan.
Western.....	Mr. E. Wood.

The list is of special interest this year as it includes the name of our respected president, and I hope that you will pass the list unanimously.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Burnley) : I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously passed.

THE UNION'S CENTRAL PREMISES.

(See Report 34, page 169.)

On the report respecting the Central Premises, Mr. WILSON (Kinning Park) asked had the amounts outstanding from the societies been wiped out?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : The amounts are put in the report with the expectation that the societies will pay up.

Mr. WILSON : Are they going to pay up?

The GENERAL SECRETARY : They had better pay up than pay excess profits duty.

REPORT OF SURVEY COMMITTEE.

(See Report 36, page 170.)

Mr. W. R. RAE (Northern Section) presented the second interim report of the Survey Committee dealing with co-operative education, literature, and publications. He said : We ask that the constitution of local committees, educational committees, &c., shall be improved so as to make them inclusive of educational committees, men's guilds, and women's guilds. We need a linking up, and all this is woven in with other suggestions which will come before you next year. I want you to pass and approve the other portions of the report, because we want to get to work to carry the same into effect. We want to help the co-operator's child to attend a co-operative class, to go from there to a co-operative school, and to a co-operative college which will enable him to come out second to none. We know what a contrast there is between the old conditions of Army life and the present conditions, and we know the delight we feel to see our own boys coming home with their three stripes and crown because they have got promotion on the field and are going to be lieutenants. The idea we have in our minds in the Survey Committee is that our own boys should have the opportunities of being captains in the industries of our own movement, and that every boy who aspires to be a captain shall have the opportunity of acquiring the necessary information. The whole of our report is based upon that conception. We are asking the Wholesale Societies and the Productive Federation to do something for the education of their employees, not because they are at present hostile, but because they, especially the Co-operative Wholesale Society, scarcely understand the position. They think their employees are linked up with the educational agencies of the distributive societies. They are not, but, even if they were, it would be better if an educational atmosphere were connected with the factories the men work at. We are anxious about this, and we believe the Co-operative Wholesale Society directors will give favourable consideration to this report. We expect you to approve of the school and class work, and of our proposals with regard to literature and the additional library. In the publications scheme we are anxious that you should assist to produce a scheme of literature co-equal with the scheme of education. We have text books for adults, youngsters, and adolescents, and guide books for

those who are in easy circumstances. We want our press improved, and we want certain anomalies removed from it. We want the societies to regard the co-operative newspapers as being worthy of the movement. We want to provide all the books you require, and we want all the encouragement you can give along the literature side of our efforts. It has been said we have incurred some hostility from our friends across the border—hostility between the Scotsmen who migrate and the Scotsmen who stay at home—because we have not presented to you an alternative report on the newspaper question. We found on inquiry into the newspaper question that there were two newspapers in one co-operative commonwealth: One in Scotland, an excellent paper; and one in England, an excellent paper, too. We had the impression, in the early part of the inquiry, that there was some question of their amalgamation, but that was removed by their friends of the *Scottish Co-operator*. I wanted an alternative proposal, but others said it was wiser that we should say there should be one paper for our movement, and that it should be made to completely fill the needs of the movement. We ask that this paper should be carefully sectionalised so that London should express London ideas and other sections should do the same, and that there could be a collective part dealing with the whole movement. At present, unless you get the *Scottish Co-operator*, you get a poor idea of what is going on in Scotland; and unless you get the *Co-operative News* you will never see the beautiful photographs of the candidates for the Wholesale Board. We want you to help us to improve our press, and to keep the movement up to its responsibilities to the press. We also commend to you the portion of the report dealing with propaganda literature, and with confidence we present the report dealing with education, propaganda, and literature.

Mr. J. ELLIOTT (Newspaper Society) rose to speak, but

The PRESIDENT said: I suggest that you should say what you want to say first thing in the morning and allow the Congress to rise now. [Agreed.]

The Congress then adjourned.





THIRD DAY OF CONGRESS.



WEDNESDAY, 30th MAY, 1917.



MORNING SITTING.

The PRESIDENT wished the delegates "Good Morning" on taking the chair, and the proceedings were resumed with the consideration of the Survey Committee's Report.

Mr. W. GREGORY formally seconded the report.

Mr. J. ELLIOTT (Newspaper Society): Our attention has been called to the following recommendation:—"The removal of overlapping between the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator* by the establishment of one paper for the whole of the United Kingdom, with different sections to meet the needs of the various sections of the movement." What I want to say to our Scottish friends is that we (the Newspaper Board) have had no part in this. The Board thought, when they saw that, that our friends might think we were anxious to bring about this amalgamation. That is not so, and we trust our Scottish friends will consider us out of any negotiations so far as this paragraph regarding negotiations is concerned. It is recommended "that the *Millgate Monthly* be recognised as a magazine of a general character, and that efforts be made to secure a bigger circulation for it in the open market, and that *Our Circle* be issued by the Education Department of the Co-operative Union." In this latter there may be a bone of contention. The Newspaper Society has been at a great deal of expense and trouble in building up *Our Circle*. Some ten years ago we began *Our Circle*, and it has played its part, so far, among the young co-operators. Since the Education Committee introduced classes for the young people it has been, to some extent, used there;

but the greater part of the circulation has been among boys and girls outside the classes. The Survey Committee think it is necessary to bring about this proposed change to secure a better circulation, but we are only trustees for the shareholding societies in the Co-operative Newspaper Society, and therefore before we can do anything with regard to the transfer we shall have to ask the shareholders whether they will allow us to do so; because it has cost us something to build it up and for some time it has been doing good work and has been a source of revenue. The editor of *Our Circle* has thrown herself into this work and has mothered it in such a way that I do not know if anybody else could have done so with the same interest.

The Bristol Society's amendment was next to be taken, and the GENERAL SECRETARY reminded the Congress that Mr. Rae asked the delegates to adopt only the parts of the report dealing with education, propaganda, and literature.

BRISTOL SOCIETY'S AMENDMENT.

Mrs. M. FOUND, on behalf of the Bristol Society, moved the amendment :—

That the interim report of the Survey Committee, dealing with the constitution of the Co-operative Union, presented to the Co-operative Congress at Lancaster in 1916, and any further report dealing with the said constitution which may be presented to the 1917 Congress, should be referred back for a year for discussion by sections, districts, and societies.

In doing so she said : I am very sorry that this amendment does not appear in the report. It was sent in in good time, but there has been some misunderstanding about it. The chairman of the society, who happens to be a member of the Central Board, withdrew the resolution prior to Congress on the understanding that the report would not be presented for adoption at this Congress. When we had correspondence from the Union asking for a confirmation of the chairman's attitude we agreed to it on the same understanding. The opinion of the members was that the resolution would cover the whole report and not any section of it. We were asked by Mr. Rae last night to adopt certain portions of the report. It may be that our resolution is unfortunately worded, but I am going to throw myself upon the tender mercies of the Congress and I ask you to take it from me that the idea was that it should embrace not only matters dealing with the constitution as generally understood, but the report as a whole. Mr. Rae was vague and nobody really knows what he wants us to adopt. I question whether one delegate in a hundred is thoroughly conversant with the matters dealt with in the report. I am not casting any reflection upon anything in the report. We are not saying whether we are in favour of it or not. What we have been asking for is democratic government, and we want the movement to understand what the changes are that are proposed in the report. Different organisations within the movement, and that are part of the movement, are affected by the recommendations submitted. We have had evidence this morning that the News-

paper Board have had no voice in saying whether they agreed to the proposals made. The Newspaper Board, the other organisations concerned, and every other individual co-operator should have the opportunity of knowing what they are to be committed to before we adopt this report. There is nothing to prevent the carrying out of this report without the Congress adopting it. There is no reason why we cannot go along doing what we want to do without adopting the report. Let us have a full discussion of the report, however, and the movement will be all the better able to deal with it next year. We have not seen any reports of any conferences that have taken place since last year on the Survey Committee's report. The only people who have discussed it are the Women's Guild. This year we have a report of a conference at which it was discussed last week, and there it was proposed that the proposals should be printed in pamphlet form. What applies to last year's report applies to this. We have nothing to lose by passing the Bristol Society's amendment, but we shall come to the next Congress understanding what we have to vote upon. The Survey Committee has been sitting for a long time, and there is no reason why we should adopt its report in five minutes.

Mr. T. ANDERSON (York) : I have pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by Mrs. Found. I think the Education Committee would be acting wisely in taking back the whole of this report until a complete report next year can be presented. The difficulty is that the Congress is never constituted always alike, and the interim portion in last year's report is not in this year's report. The interim report in last year's report is not reprinted again in this report; therefore we shall be dealing next year with something which appears in this volume and something which appeared in the volume last year. I tried to follow Mr. Rae as closely as possible last night. Personally, Mr. Hall knows that I am not a critic of the Education Committee, I am only thinking that if they presented the whole of the Survey Committee's report in a concise form for adoption or otherwise by Congress it would be much better if we felt that we were free to discuss the whole proposals submitted by the Survey Committee. I do not think any harm would come simply by a postponement of the question of the constitution. Once we waive this year the question of the educational committees and their constitution, the question of the re-formation of the educational committees, the whole question of reorganisation of sections of education and sectional boards, all these things will have to be passed next year. I do think if the Education Committee next year are prepared to present a full report complete in the whole of these things they ask the movement to adopt I am perfectly sure we shall largely be with them in the changes they want to bring about. The point is whether this is to be brought about piecemeal or in lumps. I feel confident that the Education Committee and the Survey Committee will be able to present a very strong case next year for all the changes they are working for, if only they will have the changes at one time. My desire is not to destroy; I want to see it strengthened. It is only because I think that a stronger case will be made if the case is put as a whole that I am making this suggestion.

Mr. W. GREGORY (vice-president) : I should like to make an appeal to Congress with reference to the resolution intended to be proposed in connection with the Survey Committee. I have already told you, and you approved of the desire, that the Constitution Sub-committee of the Survey Committee would examine and inquire into this matter and that they proposed to bring about a complete report before the Congress next year. You agreed that it was the proper course not to bring constitutional matters before Congress in piecemeal fashion, but that they should come forward next year with a complete report on the constitution of the whole movement. You agreed that this was a proper course to pursue. Mr. Rae, following up that request, and realising the desire of Congress, agreed to withdraw the constitutional matters in this report. One of our friends made much of the report brought forward last year. The object of bringing that matter before Congress last year was to test the feeling of the delegates as to the way in which the Survey Committee were pursuing their work, and whether they were working on right and proper lines. Then it was intended, if you approved that they were working on right and proper lines, to develop their inquiry. Suggestions came out of that inquiry when the time came to submit a report. It was suggested then to Miss Llewelyn Davies, who had a certain objection, that if she so desired she could bring in a minority report. Every opportunity will be given for a full discussion, and for analysing the report in all its details. I submit it will be wise in passing this motion. I appeal to you to vote against the amendment, and only deal with the part of the report suggested. By doing this you will be acting consistent with the action yesterday, and you will come out right.

A DELGATE : Will you define what pages you are not passing?

Professor HALL : The recommendations on reconstitution, which Mr. Rae suggested should be deferred, are given in the summary of recommendations on pages 223 and 224; paragraphs 1 and 2 on page 223; paragraphs 17 and 19 on page 224. That takes out of the report all constitutional matters which affect any rearrangement of the constitution of the Union, educational committees of societies, or the constitution of educational committees' associations.

Mr. G. R. NAISH (Tiverton) : In the report we find these words, "We regret to record the fact that many societies have recently reduced their educational grant." I would like to submit that this is not a fact. ("Oh!") I happen to be the chairman of the South-Western Educational Association. I have been struggling for eight or nine years to get a fitting status for this association. I know something about educational efforts in Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, and I have made it a point to ask all round the board whether there has been any reduced grant, but I have not found a single reduction in the South-Western Section. I am only giving my experience, which may be limited. I was wired for the other day and I went to Taunton and spoke at a meeting of 300 people at the first meeting held by a new education committee established in war time in Somerset. That is not reduced education! In my own society a man had put on the agenda a

proposal to reduce the educational grant from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The man never turned up; he sent a note stating that he wished to withdraw his resolution, and it was withdrawn without discussion. I want to go outside my own section now. When a Scotchman gets up he says he is a Scotchman; when an Englishman gets up he is silent. Of course they have board schools in Scotland. I will quote from the *Educator*, where it is stated that at Doncaster—

(The President's bell cut short the speaker, and Mr. Naish sat down amid applause.)

Mr. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton) said: I wish to draw attention to that part of the report in which the committee say, "In our opinion, papers like the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator*, whether separate or amalgamated, should be independent as to editorial control of all organisations in order to retain that freedom of criticism of current events which is so essential to progress." One could make a lengthy speech on this. I wish to say, however, that in the north there is just a suspicion of a tendency in certain directions to crush out of existence those things that stimulate certain organisations to a higher degree of efficiency than is maintained if they have the supreme controlling influence. There seems to be a widespread idea that certain men of some official authority desire that these independent journals should be transferred from the organisations that run them—whether successfully or not is beside the question. I having been elected to one it will be successfully run. I want the Congress to declare that there is a need, an increasing need, for the existence of a journal or journals inside the movement, free to voice co-operative opinion in criticising co-operative things or even the Wholesale Society. When I say "criticism" I mean helpful criticism, and not personal abuse. Further, it is essential in the interests of democracy that the co-operative movement should father a journal which will give expression to democratic thought. Turn where we will in the Press that exists there is no opportunity for democratic expression of thought and aspiration for higher ideals except in the limited journals in our movement, and these ought to be encouraged to maintain their independence. In our own societies we ought to see to it that increased facilities are given to members to have a knowledge that these papers exist and an increased opportunity of access to them, and, in so far as we develop a policy of that kind, we shall develop a higher type of co-operator.

Mr. J. BAYNE (Co-operative Newspaper Society): I wish to ask whether we are in order in discussing the full report?

THE PRESIDENT: We will go on discussing the report.

Mr. W. E. DUDLEY (Co-operative Wholesale Society): This is a most important question. Mr. Gregory has told you that really you are not passing anything important. If this is something which has to be built before we know what is presented, we ought to know what the foundation is like. I do not think that it will suffer if left for twelve months' discussion amongst the various districts to see whether they are in favour of it. Bear in mind it has

taken three years to develop. If the work of the committee is going to be of real value we want to give special attention to every detail.

Mr. P. JUDD (Doncaster) : The cause of education has not been neglected at Doncaster. If the delegates will allow me just to point out our grant was—— [Cries of "No, no,"]

The PRESIDENT : We do not want to discuss local affairs. We will take it that what Doncaster did was all right.

Mr. G. M. WILSON (Kinning Park) : I rise to support the amendment moved by Mrs. Found. We are asked to commit ourselves to accept part with regard to literature, in which it is desired to take away the oldest newspaper the co-operative movement has. At the present time the *Scottish Co-operator* is doing a valuable work. This newspaper is absolutely indispensable to co-operators in Scotland, and is very useful for the purpose of carrying on the propaganda of the movement. We shall never get any newspaper to be absolutely perfect, and never get one which will represent the opinion of everyone. It has carried the ideas of democracy and helped to make democracy. We do not believe that the amalgamation would be good. Let us consider the circulation. The *Co-operator* over membership is 200 per cent more than the *Co-operative News* has in relation to the membership in England. If the *Co-operative News* wants to do its work let it get on in England. We are doing our work with our newspaper. I believe in the movement having a paper in each section, instead of having one. People read newspapers when they will not read books. The *Co-operative News* should be the means of collecting news from the various sections. We think that you cannot pass this report. We should not only leave out the part dealing with the constitution, but also that part which refers to the newspapers. The shareholders had not yet been consulted in this matter. If the Survey Committee left out this matter, together with the proposals for altering the constitution, then a further opportunity will be given for this question to be discussed.

Mr. J. BAYNE (Co-operative Newspaper Society) : I am very pleased that there is an opportunity at this time to discuss this great question, which is very important to the whole of the movement. Mr. Rae, in introducing the Survey Committee's report yesterday, did not give sufficient attention to the claims of Scotland. Mr. Rae seemed to forget that there was a Scottish edition of the *Co-operative News*. We have a Scottish edition of the *Co-operative News*, in which there is well served up news by the sub-editor in Glasgow, and this gives the news of Scotland in a fair degree. There is no difference of opinion between our friends of the *Scottish Co-operator* and our friends of the Newspaper Society, because both are agreed that there is plenty of room in Scotland for both the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator*. There has never been any friction between the two Boards; we are on the friendliest terms. About seven years ago we met a deputation from each Board with a view to come into a closer working arrangement and possible federation of the two societies. This proposal did not mature, but

it did not in the least degree hinder or change the friendship that existed between the two Boards. I do not like to forget this. The *Co-operative News* was started in 1871; the *Scottish Co-operator* did not start until 1893, and then only as a monthly. Later, it became a fortnightly, and later still a weekly. During the whole of that period the *Co-operative News* has given the news of Scotland. It has given the news of England and also the news of the world, as it could gather it. I hope that the people of Scotland will never be so ungrateful as to spurn or lessen the interest in the great work which the *News* has done both in England and in Scotland long before the *Co-operator* came into existence. The *Co-operative News* and the Board are doing valuable work to-day. Never in the history of the two papers was there a more serious crisis. Paper is almost six times dearer than it was three years ago. The capitalistic press is not one whit more favourable to the movement to-day than it was three years ago. What I want to impress upon this great audience is—value your *Co-operative News*; value your *Co-operator*; support them in every way. Help their circulation and help them financially and do all you can to make these papers what I believe they are—the greatest educators that this movement has at the present time.

Mrs. E. D. Hood (Enfield Highway): I wish to say a word or two in support of the Bristol amendment. We have heard a good deal of discussion on the amalgamation of the two papers, but we have not heard a word yet about the position of the women—if they are to have a new women's paper. Speaking from a woman's point of view, I have a decided objection to a woman's paper. We heard Mr. Rae speaking about "cohesion" of the men and women in the movement, and now they are to be separated one from another. We want to be in touch through the *News* with everything the men are doing, and I hope the men want to be in touch with everything the women are doing. We do not want to hide news of what we are doing in a newspaper of our own. If we pass over this report now we are going to insult the Survey Committee, who have spent two years on this report and ask us to adopt it after a few minutes' discussion. There are many things in this report which will appeal to co-operators. One item has appealed specially to the Scottish delegates; there are other items which appeal to other sections of the movement which we cannot go into. The members of our organisations know nothing about this report. It is only just to the members of the Survey Committee that this report should be sent out as a special pamphlet, so that all the associations shall have a chance of discussing it and criticising the points that affect them immediately. The educational committees want to have something to say about it; management committees want to have something to say about it. The Parliamentary Committee were criticised on Monday because they had taken action without consulting the co-operators, and yet the Survey Committee are taking action like this. Mr. Gregory spoke about piecemeal, but it is the Survey Committee who want to treat this piecemeal; we want it all done at once. Did the delegates know any more about last year's report than about this one? It was all done and adopted. If this is a good report it will take no harm from being discussed.

Mr. T. ADAMS (*Scottish Co-operator*): There is a matter in the report affecting the *Scottish Co-operator*. We agree with some points in that, but others we take exception to. I have been for twenty years on the board of the *Scottish Co-operator*, and in that time I have been able to form an idea of what the feelings of the societies in Scotland are. Our friend Mr. Bayne said the *News* was the oldest paper. We go back in our history to the year 1863; we continued till the starting of the *Co-operative News*, which absorbed the *Scottish Co-operator* then. In 1893 the *Scottish Co-operator* was re-started, first as a monthly, then as a fortnightly, and then as a weekly. Then came the *Co-operative News* special weekly Scottish Edition. The Survey Committee's report states that "the papers circulate side by side," but the circulation of the *Scottish Co-operator* is about four times that of the Scottish edition of the *News*. The *Co-operator* does not yet meet the needs of the societies with regard to literature; some societies want a paper of their own instead of one for Scotland. The Survey Committee state that journals of this type "should be national in character." The *News* may wish to cover the whole world, but Scotland desires a newspaper of its own. We must have a paper printed and controlled and managed and contributed to by the people of Scotland generally. We cannot give way and are not likely to give way, and a Scottish paper must be maintained in spite of this decision coming from the Survey Committee. There are Scotch names at the head of this report—Mr. Bisset, Mr. Rae, and Mrs. Hunter. If the majority had been Scotch this report would never have been given.

Mr. J. R. SOUDEN (Paisley Manufacturing Society): I want to support the committee's report generally, but the chief consideration that the committee submitted laid stress on the word Educate, and yet they want to take away one of the best means of educating. Scottish co-operators should have the opportunity of saying "Yes" or "No" as to whether they are willing that this should be. Nothing can be lost, and a good deal can be gained, by remitting this back for another year. It is not fair that this should be thrown upon the Congress without the voice of the members of the societies being heard. As the last speaker has reminded us, it is stated in the report that the *Co-operative News* and the *Scottish Co-operator* circulate side by side. That is hardly correct. In the case of the *Co-operator* the circulation is 28,650, and in the case of the *News* the circulation in Scotland is 8,450, so that the *Co-operator* is much more read in Scotland than the *News*. I do not wish to say a single word against the *News*, it is an admirable paper. I have read it for years, and I should not like to cease being a reader of it. At the same time, I think the *Co-operator* is doing admirable work, and it should be preserved. There is room for the *News* as a national paper, and there is room for every section to have a paper of its own. The movement is great enough for every section to have a paper of its own when the time is more opportune for putting this into operation. The step proposed by the Survey Committee is not in the interests of the movement, and is a retrograde step.

A DELEGATE: I move—"That the question be now put." ["Agreed."]

Professor HALL : A great many points have been raised in the discussion. I think the first thing we want to settle is the question of the adjournment or otherwise of portions of the report. Fundamentally, I see no difference between the Bristol amendment and the motion of Mr. Rae. The Bristol amendment asks Congress to defer constitutional matters to the next Congress ; Mr. Rae's resolution proposes the same thing. The Survey Sub-committee will go further than Mr. Rae and add the postponement of the newspaper question as well. It is our desire not to be autocratic, but we are living at a time when education must have attention. We have decided to go in for political action, and we must educate. We want to leave over controversial matters, but for heavens sake let us concentrate. Let us get on with the work on which we are all agreed. We are responsible in this matter. Some of us are not young and are getting older every hour and every minute. We want to have the assistance of Congress on matters on which we are agreed. I ask you to give your encouragement and assistance by rejecting the amendment and passing the resolution moved by Mr. Rae.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Burnley) : Is it possible, in view of Mr. Hall's statement, for the amendment to be withdrawn ?

Mrs. FOUND : I cannot withdraw the amendment. What applies to the newspapers applies equally to other sections of the report.

The amendment was negatived, and Mr. Rae's resolution was then carried.

The PRESIDENT : The report will be circulated and fully discussed in the conferences during the year.

A NATIONAL POLICY.

(See Report 37, page 228.)

Professor HALL : I have been honoured by the Standing Orders Committee with the duty of introducing for your consideration the suggestions contained in the report with regard to a national policy, a national programme, and a scheme of national propaganda. It has been said, and I think with a great deal of truth, that we have had no co-operative policy. We have had a definite expression of opinion in the movement as a whole upon very many vital matters, and we need the adoption of a co-operative national policy to enable societies within this standard of efficiency to specify a policy. We are asking that societies should have an open membership. Part of the policy of the movement should be to take as much capital as it could get from its members. We are asking the movement to adopt as part of its policy that the prices should never be in excess of the local prices. We are asking the movement to adopt as part of its policy that the reserve fund should never be less than 20 per cent of share and loan capital. We are asking you to abolish credit in all transactions. We ask you to see that there is an adequate rate of depreciation maintained in the societies. We are asking you to see that the conditions of labour in your societies are satisfactory by

setting up a standard so that the rate of wages was never lower than the district rate of wages for the particular occupation. We want you, as part of the policy, to decide against overlapping. We ask you to declare as an avowed object the acquisition of the sources of supply. We ask you to show your faith in education by making it a plank in the co-operative programme. If we are to have this policy carried to success we must know how to carry it into effect. You are asked to adopt a national programme for the forthcoming Congress year. We must know where we are going; we must know how to take the considered steps to reach the object of our goal. Districts discuss a variety of subjects. These are very valuable, sometimes they are more valuable to the writer of the paper than to those who attend the conference. What we want is more cohesion than in the past. We want our conferences concentrated upon proper subjects. The programme will indicate what the subjects ought to be for our conferences. We want, for example, during the forthcoming year to see a removal of the restrictions of membership and accumulation of capital. We want societies to appoint canvassers for increasing the trade and loyalty of members. We want as part of the programme to increase the efficiency of the business administration and to depreciate liberally and increase the reserves. There should be no increase of dividend, but prices should be kept down. Societies should be preparing themselves during the forthcoming year for the changes and developments necessary when the war was over. They should undertake propaganda for the extension of co-operative insurance and banking, stimulate all forms of educational work, secure a better co-ordination between the committees, and carry on a propaganda in favour of an improved system of national education. Conferences on after-war problems are suggested. It was also proposed that we go forward with our agitation against the imposition of the income tax, and that we should push on the distribution of literature. We suggest that the programme should be approved by Congress, and should be discussed at the United Board. It should go back to the Sectional Boards right out to the districts. If we can get a national programme concentrating on national work we shall come to Congress informed on the questions which we have discussed. You are asked to adopt certain detailed suggestions for advertising, by using the local Press, the national Press, hoarding advertising, van meetings, lantern lectures, and other means for advertising and propagating the principles of co-operation. This is the beginning. A great deal in this life depends on getting a start. When you have recognised the necessity you can develop afterwards. It will be open for societies, when we have a national policy, to send in resolutions that certain items might be added to it. I hope myself to follow this by having next year for discussion a national co-operative Parliamentary policy on which to base our educational work. This gives us some direction; for our educational work to be effective must be direct. I have much pleasure in proposing the following resolution :—

That this Congress heartily welcomes the action of the Central Board in formulating a national co-operative policy, a national co-

operative programme, and a national propaganda scheme, and believes that their action will give more definiteness to the movement's activities and lead to greater success; it approves the proposals contained in the Central Board's recommendations, and instructs the Central Board to take all necessary steps to carry the proposals into effect.

With all the earnestness which I possess I move this resolution, and submit it to the earnest consideration of Congress.

Mr. E. O. GREENING (Co-operative Bookbinders, London): I rise to second the resolution of Professor Hall, and I have to express my admiration for this bold and forward policy. It is like a trumpet sound calling us forth to march forward. It will give a new impetus to the movement. I am glad to see that a bold step is being suggested as regards retaining and bringing into the movement all the available capital labour has at its disposal for its emancipation. These funds are not small. In the Post Office and Trustees' Savings Banks there is 250 millions of working class capital available for their own advancement inside their own democratic organisation, if they like to take steps to bring it in for the improvement of the working classes. It brings interest at about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the present recipients. In bringing that capital into the movement we shall be performing a great national and patriotic duty. I do not know how many realise the burden this nation will have to carry after the war. The public debt is now about 4,000 millions—that means that the central government will want at least about 500 millions per annum. The Government is spending $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions per day, and if this goes on twelve months longer you will have added to the national debt 365 times that amount, or 2,500 millions more. If it goes a twelve months longer the needs of the Government will be 700 millions per annum. How much is the total wage earnings of the labouring classes? Not more than 880 millions (according to Sir Leo Chiozza Money) at the last national stocktaking. The Government will want 700 millions, local governing bodies will want their share. The burden can be carried if you increase the earning capacity of the great mass of the people. We do not realise the capacity there is in the paper caps of the workers. Co-operation increases that. If we can bring the capital of the working classes into the movement the Empire can go forward to future greatness. This programme is a national necessity, and I hope we shall keep step to the music.

Mr. J. PENNY (Sheffield and Ecclesall): I am above all things desirous that the co-operative movement shall be a working class organisation and not be threatened with passing into capitalistic hands and those of interest-mongers. It was put forward that we should remove the £200 limit on holding capital in the societies. This is made a big point of. Now, beware, my friends, for our co-operative capital we may have to pay six, seven, or eight per cent owing to the vicious system of national finance, bolstered up by Government capitalists. The danger is that if we remove this limit we may attract as investors capitalists out to fight the movement. Cut the

dividends down, says Prof. Hall. I agree with that, but the dividend in the co-operative movement is the only method by which working men acquire capital. Cut down the dividend in the accumulation of working class capital. Then comes the danger that you are going to have capitalists putting money in, and seeking to get control of the movement. What are the safeguards against that? My friend, Mr. Jennings, wants one member one vote, but if you had capitalists putting in £5,000 or £10,000—"Oh!"—these were the people who would seek to establish in the movement the principle of one share one vote. Those are the people up to the present who have been in power in Parliament and have been able to manipulate the votes and the legislature of the country in their interests. It is all right to attract capital from the working classes, but let us beware that we are not giving an opening for our capitalistic enemies to get in. If the point is safeguarded then I am in agreement with the Central Board on this part of the programme. I have never found any member of the Central Board, and I have never found Prof. Hall able to lay down some safeguard which will prevent the capitalist from manipulating the movement. I maintain, as a working class organisation, it will be well to examine these proposals very carefully.

Mr. S. W. MOULE (Stratford): You must have securities against the capitalist with £5,000 or £10,000. The societies should follow the principle at Stratford and other similar societies, where there is a protecting clause governing the amount that they can put into the societies.

Mr. W. ROGERS (Northampton): I want to cross swords with our comrade Mr. Penny. I think if we work very carefully we can get hold of the capital and can turn it to working class use without going to the extreme of confiscation by Act of Parliament. The point I want to raise is with reference to clauses 4 and 8 as regards the prices. I am so glad to hear that this report does urge upon co-operative societies the keeping down of prices. One of the things that makes me very ashamed of the co-operative societies is when I sit in a commercial room and hear a statement made by commercial travellers in private trade. They tell me: "Look at the co-operative society—a glorified money box for the incompetent working class, that does not know how to save money except when it is shut up in the 'co-op.'" I have talked to committee-men during the Congress who have been frank enough to tell me that if I was to urge the same principles up in the North of England as I am continually urging in our district they say, "Rogers, you would never get on the Board." I replied: "You mark my words, the only thing any of us believe in and have any faith in is a thing we are prepared to pay something for. If it means losing your seat you ought to have the courage and faith to work for what you believe to be true." I could give you concrete instances where I have taken managers from certain societies down the street and said to them: "Look at the prices of this stuff in this shop and look at the prices in your own." "We know all about that, Rogers," is the reply. "But do you know that at the last half-yearly meeting our members instructed me what dividend I have got to make, and I do it out of the prices accordingly."

("No, no.") Do not say "No." We will not start mentioning the societies. Let me just say this: Let us be business men; let us run our societies on a competitive basis in those centres that we will give our members their goods at the prices ruling in other shops and, wherever possible, lower.

The PRESIDENT: The Standing Orders Committee suggest that there should be a time limit of three minutes for each speaker. ("Agreed.") I hope delegates will not take up time repeating the sentiments of previous speakers, and delegates ought not to speak at all unless they have something new to put before us.

Mr. R. SMITH (St. George) asked if the committee proposed to take any steps to penalise societies for overlapping?

Mr. P. COLEY (Co-operative Wholesale Society) was about to speak when a delegate in the gallery, whose name was not given, but who appeared to be Mr. Smith, protested against Mr. Coley being called upon to speak when he was refused.

The PRESIDENT asked the Congress to support him.

Mr. COLEY: I have not bothered this Congress much and I would not trouble it now had there not been brought forward within the last half hour alone sufficient matter to justify the Congress being called together. This is one of the most magnificent proposals made to a Congress in my time—this concentration of effort that has been thought about, but not done. The Board are to be congratulated on the matter they have brought forward, and I thank God from my heart and soul that I have lived to see concentrated and effective control of co-operative propaganda attempted.

MR. HALL'S REPLY.

Professor HALL, replying: With regard to the points raised by Mr. Penny, I have only to say that we have sufficient common sense in the movement to see that the societies do not become capitalist concerns. I want to put this point. Every penny of capital used outside in production or distribution is being used directly or indirectly against the movement. You complain about capital controlling labour, but, take the other point of view, and what could labour promise capital. It will put up the reserves or assist the working arrangements in an economic manner. I do not suppose Parliament is going to give permission to take £10,000 of capital from any individual. With regard to the question about overlapping, the Survey Committee has this matter under consideration and with the constitutional suggestions next year you will find suggestions as to penalties for societies not willing to accept the rule. With regard to workers in factories, this is a question for the Survey Committee and not a question for the United Board, and the Survey Committee has taken into consideration the question of welfare work. My friend has mentioned about the collection of the fund for the propaganda scheme, that remains to be seen whether societies are willing to take up the propaganda scheme. It has been proved that societies can afford to pay Excess Profits Duty, and they can surely pay this money without

difficulty. With regard to the trade unions and banking, I may say it is part of our object to get the trade unions to bank with the Co-operative Wholesale Society Bank. Conferences have been held at which representatives of the Co-operative Wholesale Society have advocated the greater use of the bank. I am asked what steps I would suggest should be taken by the Co-operative Wholesale Society to reduce prices. That is a matter for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. I am also asked will the Survey Committee take into consideration a Parliamentary policy? I have to thank Mr. Greening and Mr. Coley for their remarks, these will encourage the Central Board to bring forward a Parliamentary policy next year.

The PRESIDENT : I must now ask you to vote for or against the resolution. The vote was taken and the resolution was declared adopted.

The PRESIDENT : We must now proceed as rapidly as possible.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

(See Report 41, page 241.)

Mr. J. POLLITT (North-Western Section) : The Standing Orders Committee and the Central Board think that this Congress ought not to dissolve without expressing a very strong resolution upon the manner in which the food supplies of the country have been distributed by the food controlling board. I have, therefore, great pleasure in moving—

That this Congress emphatically condemns the unsatisfactory methods of the Food Controller, these having resulted in high prices and consequent profiteering, and it demands the immediate reorganisation of the entire machinery of the food control department by securing adequate representation of co-operators and other working class organisations on the Food Commission, without which it cannot be possible to exercise an equitable and efficient control.

In the three minutes at my disposal I cannot cover all the ground. As a matter of fact, not much need be said. What we do know is this. Whenever the Food Control Department has told us to adopt some other substitute for food at once the price of that substitute has gone up. We can recall what took place with regard to the substitute for vegetables, butter, and other things. We were distinctly promised—you can find it in your report—that Lord Devonport would alter the entire basis of the sugar distribution, and that it should be more equitably distributed. But this has not been done. This Congress ought to demand that a more equitable basis should be introduced. The men who are controlling the food supplies of the people have no idea of the requirements and necessities of the working classes. No commission can deal equitably and justly with the food supply of the people unless every class of the community is recognised and represented on that Commission. You will be pleased to see from the paper this morning that Lord Devonport has tendered his resignation. It ought not to stop at his resignation. He is not the only one. We should demand that all those who

were more than necessary to represent the class to which they belong should be swept from the same office, and that direct representatives of working class organisations should be appointed.

Mrs. M. A. GASSON (Southern Section) : Someone has contradicted the statement that Lord Devonport has resigned, but we only hope that he has resigned. The thing that strikes me most during the whole of this struggle is this : First, it has not touched the rich. Whatever the price of food is they can buy it, although they are told to restrict certain food and leave cheaper food to the poor their money allowed them to buy what they liked. What we want is that food necessary for the well-being of the nation should be fixed at such a price that the poor can buy any amount which they want. Is it not piteous to see queues standing in the streets waiting for the food which was necessary for our working men and women, not to mention our children, who have not enough food to go to school upon. It is quite time that every working class organisation, every trade union branch, and every labour organisation lodged a protest against this thing. It is only by organised pressure we can get the whole thing altered. Some of you have seen in the morning's paper that in Lord Devonport's office—I do not wonder that he is ill—there are awaiting him 35 bags, each containing 4,000 letters. We have to make it ten times worse for him. We must get the working class point of view. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

CO-OPERATION AND AGRICULTURE.

(See Report 43 (1), page 243.)

Mr. R. FLEMING (Irish Section) : It falls on me to deal with the first special subject which the Central Board seek to bring to the notice of Congress. The proposition which I have to move in their name is as follows :—

That this Congress considers it advisable in the interests of the consumer that farming be undertaken by distributive societies, either individually or in federation, as a means of controlling prices and supplies of foodstuffs and raw materials.

You will readily notice that it initiates no new principle; it elaborates no new policy. It seeks to submit to Congress the proposition that they should enter more resolutely and more enthusiastically into the business of agriculture. Speaking at one of our public meetings, Mrs. Penny made a protest against what she termed the passing of mere "pious resolutions." I quite agree that our minds at these Congresses like to soar too much. We might more often organise thought with a distinct practical purpose in view. It is the past 50 years has led us into the serious trouble in which we stand to-day, The immediate occasion of its submission is the new policy which has been elaborated by the Prime Minister and Mr. Prothero on behalf of the Government. You are all aware that in February last the Prime Minister, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, intimated that they had determined to fix the price of cereal crops, and also assented that the neglect of agriculture during

the past 50 years has led us into the serious trouble in which we stand to-day, and that this is a mistake which must not be repeated in the future. Again, we have the proposals that the committee over which Lord Balfour, a Free Trader, presided brought forward, and in which they recommend an imperial tariff with preferential treatment to the Colonies and our Allies. Whether the policy of Mr. Lloyd George with respect to prices, and with Lord Balfour as to tariffs, are economically and fiscally sound is a matter for debate. We submit that the issue before us is this, that in the years to come agriculture will be placed in a decidedly advantageous position. If we are to share in this advantage we must, as societies, enter resolutely and determinedly into this business. If we go back 100 years we find that in his speech to the Throne in 1815, the Prince Regent made representations to the House of Commons as to the decayed condition of agriculture. As a result of that speech the first Corn Law was introduced, which provided that no corn should be imported from foreign countries until the price of the home product had been raised to 80s. a quarter. I need not recount the iniquitous effect of this most injurious enactment. We know that the town population suffered distress beyond description, but the agricultural industry prospered. If the societies had existed at that time strong enough to have entered into the business locally they could have had the advantages enjoyed by the farmers which could have been shared by the members. The lesson should be learnt to-day. We do not know but that this may be the beginning of another series of Corn Laws; to be forewarned is to be forearmed. We and our constituents ought to secure the best conditions of collective trading, and we should do our little part in building up the national agricultural well-being.

A DELEGATE seconded the proposal.

Mr. J. CAIRNS (St. Cuthbert's): Coming from a society which has had considerable experience in farming I feel bound to say, in our opinion, the advice contained in this resolution will not be accepted unless we arrive at a clear decision that the land shall be owned and not rented by co-operative societies. If co-operative societies are to cultivate land to its full capacity to produce as much food as possible for the country this cannot be done without the application of a good deal of labour and capital. Within the last four years we have spent £5,000 on improvements. If we were in a position as tenants instead of landlords, if we had to quit the holding, it would be quite impossible for us to leave without leaving behind a greater part of the money spent. We who are engaged in agriculture cannot understand the dilatory policy of the retail societies in this respect. Permit me to give you one or two facts with regard to the results of our farming operations last year. We farm 898 acres of land, 750 acres being arable. Last year there was a net profit, after paying expenses, of no less than £8,647. I want to point out that we had to pay income tax and excess profits duty. One of the national scandals permitted in the history of this country is to allow farmers altogether to escape the payment of the excess profits duty.

Mr. W. CLAYTON (Co-operative Wholesale Society): I approve part of

this resolution. Those who have read Lord Selborne's report see that there are a good deal of changes proposed, but it does not propose to deal with the landlord, and until this time comes it does behove us, as an organisation, to see what can be done. The Co-operative Wholesale Society has done something in the way of purchasing estates in this country and elsewhere. During the last few years we have purchased from 12,000 to 14,000 acres of land, suitably situated for the purposes required. We are inquiring respecting other portions, and where suitable land can be obtained it is proposed by the Co-operative Wholesale Society to go further. The only point I wish to make with regard to this resolution is we do not desire any competition on the part of societies. Agriculture will have to be carried on with an abundance of machinery, and with highly paid wages to attract the skilled worker. The Wholesale Society is a federation of consumers, and is your society in carrying on farming operations. My point is that I do not want to see groups of societies eventually coming into competition with the Wholesale Society. It is their desire to carry out the spirit of this resolution as far as possible.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

THE MILK SUPPLY.

(See Report 43 (2), page 244.)

Mr. W. T. CHARTER (Southern Section) : I have pleasure in moving the following resolution :—

In view of the importance of obtaining the sufficient production and effective distribution of pure milk, it is in the national interest that the supply should be permanently under Government control, and its sales supervised by the granting of licenses to those distributors only whose methods are in accordance with regulations so framed as to secure cleanliness, purity, economy of distribution, and a fair price to the consumer.

I want to draw your attention to the preamble of the resolution itself. If you will carefully read it you will find not only what has led up to the terms of the resolution, but also what was the reason which prompted the Central Board to bring this resolution before you. We are, undoubtedly, in my opinion, in the near future faced with a milk famine. I come from an agricultural district in which milk farms play an important part, and on account of the very high prices now being realised in the open market for meat, young heifers are being slaughtered, and this can only end in one way—sooner or later there is bound to be a deficiency in the supply. It is of enormous advantage that we should possess an adequate milk supply, so far as it affects the infantile mortality. I think that it is up to us to see that such an industry as the supply of milk for human consumption is taken out of the hands of the private speculator and should be nationally controlled right throughout. I submit from the point of view of utility, cleanliness, and economy milk should only be sold by those associations which would

undertake to sell it under certain conditions, and that the farmer who owned or farmed land should give a guarantee that he will produce a certain amount of milk in proportion to the acreage of the farm. In town, I would suggest that we see that the milk is so centralised as to prevent its being brought from one end of the country, except when absolutely necessary. The supply should be brought to centralised depôts, and the retailers should give an undertaking that they will abide by certain conditions as regards cleanliness. I submit that this is a matter which calls for the attention of this Congress. What we must decide upon is whether in a matter of national importance we provide against our national need. I submit that in the nation's interests, and in the interests of those who are coming now to take our places in the future, we must see that the milk supply shall be so controlled as to secure the best possible result.

Mr. S. BLAKEBOROUGH (Burnley) : I second the resolution.

The resolution was carried without discussion.

NATIONALISATION OF RAILWAYS AND WATERWAYS.

(See Report 43 (3), page 245.)

Mr. J. MILLINGTON (Midland Section) submitted, on behalf of the Central Board, the following resolution :—

That this Co-operative Congress is of opinion that the railways and waterways of the United Kingdom should be nationalised and worked in the interests of the people's convenience in travel, trade, and commerce. The shareholders to be treated in a fair and equitable manner.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade.

Having referred to the report, he said : I have only time to put before you a few arguments for the principle of the nationalisation of the railways and waterways on which the success of so many industries depends. These means of communication are not always used with due regard for the lives and limbs of those engaged in the industries or of the passengers. Then there is the point of economy. At present we have duplicates of staffs and trucks, useless mileage, and the duplication of trains. The economies we would have under nationalisation would give an opportunity to develop our railways and light railways. We suggest that, as in the case of the Post Office, the railways should be run in the interests of the community instead of for the production of dividend for a few. We would get rid of the confusion of rates and the confusion of the men dealing with them. The safety of the worker is an important point. In 1911 we had nearly 3,000 accidents. The advantage that would accrue from nationalisation includes a great saving in management expenses, greater convenience in working these services, the greater safety of the workers and the passengers, lower fares for passengers and lower rates for goods, an extension of trade, democratic control, and uniformity of charges.

Mr. G. HARRIS (Midland Section): I second this resolution. Between Liverpool and Bristol there are four routes, on which 27 companies operate. Between Hull and Liverpool there are ten different waterways with different locks and gates before you get to your destination. That is the condition of things now. Many of the companies pay no profit at all, and the whole works out at a profit of less than 2 per cent. Experts tell us that canals and waterways can be run at one-fifth of the cost of railways. What are they doing in other countries? The United States comes out on top; their goods transport costs a halfpenny per ton per mile. In France it costs about 2d. per ton per mile. We want the Government to do the same thing here in the national interest.

The resolution was carried.

DECEASED CO-OPERATORS.

(See Report 55, page 253)

The PRESIDENT: I wish to direct your attention to the list of deceased co-operators in this report. You will see that a very large number have passed away during the year, and many of these have given their lives for their homes and country. I want to ask you to give an expression of your sympathy with those they have left behind.

The delegates rose in respectful silence.

This completed the Report of the Central Board, which was adopted *nem. con.*

EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

Mr. H. J. MAY (Parliamentary Committee) moved an urgency resolution in the following terms:—

That this Congress instructs the Joint Parliamentary Committee to take immediate steps to urge upon the Government by all the means available the necessity of according the same opportunities of exemption from military service of indispensable men in pivot positions in the co-operative movement as are accorded to private trading firms and industrial organisations.

This, he said, is another of our mild resolutions, but if you follow the wording out exactly you will find that it states the case. In this matter, which is of urgent national importance, co-operators only ask justice. The immediate reason for putting this forward is that we believe the backing of this Congress will materially assist us in our efforts; but another reason is that representatives of co-operative societies are being pushed to the extreme in this matter and are not receiving justice.

Mr. W. M. ROGERSON (Walkden): I will second that resolution. I am a member of a tribunal and I know from experience what the co-operative movement has had to put up with in this direction. The co-operative society I belong to appealed from time to time at the local tribunal, and it got a

scantier reception than private traders got. When another small society, that had lost every male employé except the manager, came before the tribunal for the exemption of the manager, they turned him down, and in turning the man down one member of the tribunal, who is interested in capitalism, made the significant statement that if the co-operative society had to close down nobody suffers, but if the private trader were closed down somebody suffered very materially. I need not tell you that he got a suitable reply; but a more suitable reply is wanted, and it will be given by the united action of the co-operative societies in the direction in which we have already decided at this Congress—through local representation and Parliamentary representation. It is only in that way that we shall keep hold of positions that should be in our hands as well as in the hands of other members of the community. In every tribunal you will find capitalists manning them and the trade-unionists in a minority.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.

The PRESIDENT moved that Mr. T. Wood (Manchester) be reappointed auditor of the Co-operative Union, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

PLACE OF NEXT CONGRESS.

Mr. J. BRADSHAW (North-Western Sectional Board) supplemented the paragraph relating to the Jubilee Congress of next year, which the Central Board have decided shall be held in Manchester, subject to the approval of the delegates. Mr. Bradshaw said: There will be no difficulty in securing the Free Trade Hall, which is known to most people for its historical associations. The hall will accommodate 3,000 persons, and its acoustic properties are second to none. There is ample ante-room accommodation for writing rooms, inquiry office, cloak rooms, and the building is admirably situated. With regard to an exhibition we shall have to be governed by circumstances on the Continent. If circumstances do permit there will be no difficulty in arranging for a suitable building in the Royal Botanical Gardens, to which there is a frequent service of cars. The societies in the City of Manchester have held a preliminary meeting, and representatives from that meeting will extend to you an invitation to-day. We do not anticipate any trouble about suitable lodging accommodation.

Mr. J. R. SMITH (Manchester and Salford), called upon by the President, spoke for the Manchester societies. Next year, he said, the Congress attains its jubilee, and it has been considered desirable and appropriate that it should be held in the City of Manchester. In order to enable this to be done the Northern Section have generously waived their claim for the Congress to be held in their district, to which they were entitled, and we desire to express our appreciation of their kindness. On behalf of the Blackley, Droylesden, Failsworth, Manchester and Salford, New Moston, and Pendleton societies, all

in the Manchester area, I extend to you a very hearty and unanimous invitation to hold the 1918 Congress in our city. By the influence derived from holding a Congress in Manchester there cannot be the slightest doubt that the movement will receive a stimulus in the Manchester area that will prove a great benefit to the large population of workers in our midst. There will not be many in this assembly who will require a lengthy exposition as to the position of Manchester, either co-operatively, municipally, or nationally, suffice it to say that it is the headquarters of co-operation and the centre of every degree of co-operative activity. The various works in connection with the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the productive societies will prove of great interest to the delegates, who may not previously have had an opportunity of inspecting them. There will be no difficulty with regard to accommodation for the delegates. The Congress itself will be held in the historic Free Trade Hall, built on the site of Peterloo, and although it has not such pleasant surroundings as some of the halls where Congresses have been held, it is admirably adapted for the purpose, and will provide comfortable seating accommodation for those who may attend. The P.S.A. and other meetings will also be held in this hall. With regard to the exhibition, which it is eminently desirable should be held, owing to the exigencies of the War Office, unless the war is over, which we fervently hope may be attained before Congress meets again, there may be some difficulty in providing a suitable hall near the centre of the city, but I understand the Co-operative Union will do all they possibly can to meet the requirements. I therefore move that the 1918 Congress be held in Manchester, and I can assure all those who attend that they will receive a hearty Lancashire welcome.

Mr. F. JENNINGS (Pendleton): I do not want to trespass on your time except to say for your information that it is forty years since the Congress was held in Manchester. I promise you that if this war is over we shall have a Congress worthy of the occasion.

The PRESIDENT: Are you prepared to accept the invitation? [Cries of "Aye."]

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. J. BAYNE (Newspaper Society): We are drawing near the close of this most important and also very pleasant Congress. One understands the success which has attended all the arrangements connected with it, and we have not far to look when we know that there has been somebody doing all the work, a good deal of which is unseen. I have been asked to propose the following comprehensive resolution:—

That this Congress expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks to the Mayor of Swansea for his cordial welcome to the delegates on Monday, and the reception to be given by him this evening; to the gentlemen who conducted special services on Sunday; to the artistes and speakers who have assisted in making the evening

meetings a success ; to the committee and members of the Swansea Society for their kind invitation to participate in the excursion to Mumbles ; to the Reception Committee for their continued and successful efforts to provide for the comfort and entertainment of the delegates ; and to the Press for their fair reports of the Congress proceedings.

In thanking the Mayor, I desire to express your regret at his indisposition, and I hope that he will be speedily restored to his usual health and activities. I am very pleased to learn that this most representative Congress thought it their duty, in a large extent, to take full advantage of the services at the churches and at the P.S.A. As far as the music is concerned, you are 100 years in advance of some other parts of the country. I hope that this visit will make us go back to the north country determined to make the co-operative musical associations a little more widespread. I trust that we shall go into this part of our work with increased vigour. The resolution also recognised the services of the speakers at the meetings, particularly to Mrs. Penny for the great service which she had rendered. We also desire to thank the committee and members of the Swansea Society. What shall I say about Mumbles—beautiful Mumbles? I have been to Mumbles, and I have never looked upon a fairer scene than the view from Mumbles Pier. I trust that we shall enjoy our visit there this afternoon. We are also grateful to the Reception Committee for their continued and successful efforts to provide for the comfort and entertainment of the delegates. The Reception Committee had taken on a big job in providing lodgings and entertainment, and I am sure that we are very grateful to them. We also thank the Press for their fair reports of the Congress proceedings. I think on the whole we have had fair reports from a number of papers of this Congress. They have not been long—in the existing circumstances we cannot expect them to be—but they have been good reports, notwithstanding the article which appeared in yesterday's *Western Mail* antagonistic to our movement. I know that we shall all survive. When the writer of the article has had time to digest some of the information he will get through this Congress he will see that he has made many mistakes in the writing of that article. To all these people I ask you to give your warmest thanks for their services and their kindness.

Mrs. E. D. HOOD (Enfield Highway) : I have great pleasure in seconding this vote of thanks. We have had a most enjoyable, a most entertaining, and a most instructive Congress in Swansea. A great deal of that success has been due to the reception we have had from the members of the Swansea Society. I am not going to take up your time with a long speech, as you all want to get into the fresh air. The mover of the resolution made a special reference to Mrs. Penny. I want to make a special reference to the artistes who gave us such delightful music. The mover of the resolution said that the Welsh singers were 100 years in front of Scotland. I am not a Scots-woman, and I cannot quite agree with that. Scotch people are noted for their music and singing. I have had the pleasure of hearing Scotch music and I

can assure you that the Welsh singers come up to their standard. I cannot admit that they are better. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was then put to the Congress and carried with acclamation.

A REPLY FOR SWANSEA.

Mr. D. WILLIAMS, J.P. (President of the Swansea and District Co-operative Society): I have to return thanks in the name of all the bodies mentioned in this resolution. I am very sorry that there is one very important omission. The "clerk of the weather" has not been mentioned for his kindness. I want to say on behalf of the Reception Committee, and the local committees of the Swansea Co-operative Society, how much we appreciate the kindness of the sentiments expressed by the mover and seconder of the resolution. We are passing through some difficult times owing to the restrictions of the Food Controller, but he was glad to hear from the delegates that they are amply satisfied, and that they have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. At the Lancaster Congress, in giving you the invitation to come to Swansea, some of my friends thought that I was rather extravagant in extolling the virtues of the place. I think that I said Swansea was heaven. Some of you who came through Landore no doubt thought, "How is Mr. Williams going to explain himself," after looking at the scenery of Landore. I am reminded of St. John in the Island of Patmos, where he saw a vision. He questioned an angel and asked: "Who are these arrayed in white robes?" The reply was: "These are they who came out of great tribulation." The "great tribulation" of the delegates was when they came through Landore. In the vote of thanks, from your appreciative references you have evidently found heaven in Swansea. Notwithstanding all the difficulties, we have been able to give you a treat in the musical programme that has been provided. I want to specially mention my young friend, the organist and conductor, who has been untiring in his efforts during the last four months. When I say that this choir has only been in actual operation for four months you will agree that they have made a wonderful achievement in that time. Our friend is a co-operator in his inmost soul, and he has devoted himself for the purpose of making this Congress the success already attained. I am glad the mover of the resolution has made a reference to the indisposition of the Mayor. I shall take the earliest opportunity of expressing the sentiments of Congress towards him. In other circumstances we might possibly have had an intellectual treat from the Mayor. I am quite sure that had he been in his usual health he would have given you an official welcome worthy of the town. I want to say one word of the Reception Committee, which has been drawn from the whole of the Western area, and amongst these we have found men with zeal and energy and enthusiasm to make this a success—worthy of the town and the districts to which they belong. I want to pay personal tribute to them for the able way in which they have conducted the business of the sub-committees which have contributed so largely to the success. I want, on behalf of Swansea, to thank you for the amount of

knowledge you have disseminated in this town during the last few days. The seed sown, we are going out as reapers to obtain the harvest in the near future. Not only the town of Swansea will be benefited, but the district for a radius of 20 or 30 miles—here co-operation will take a deep root, and there will be a mighty harvest as the result of this Congress.

FRENCH DELEGATE'S LEAVE-TAKING.

M. CLEUET, the French delegate, had to leave the Congress at this stage, and asked to be allowed to say "good-bye."

Mr. MAY, translating M. Cleuet's words, said: M. Cleuet asks the delegates to believe that it is with no formal words he says "Adieu!" He wishes it were possible to employ the language of Shakespeare to express his thanks for all the kindnesses he had met with at this Congress; but he says that, if the difference of language prevents him having the supreme enjoyment of the happy time you have given him, through the eyes and gestures of his friends here—and in a thousand other ways which are the development of centuries of civilisation—he has been able to receive and, he hopes, able to reciprocate a deep feeling of sympathy, gratitude, and appreciation he feels in coming among you at this Congress. He desires to express at this supreme crisis in our history the feelings of cordiality and understanding and complete sympathy which are increasing—and under the stress of present circumstances have reached their supreme height—between this country and France, and between the co-operators whom he greets as brothers here and those to whom he is going back after spending such an enjoyable time.

As M. Cleuet rose to acknowledge the applause with which the delegates greeted the translation of his valedictory thanks, the organ again led the "Marseillaise," which the delegates sang in a loud chorus as they stood in their places; the last words of the chorus merged in cheers, loud and prolonged, which continued till M. Cleuet had disappeared from the platform.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

Mr. DAVID EVANS (Western Section): I am not going to detain you with a long speech, but I must admit that the atmosphere has again become electrified. There is an inspiration abroad. I have sincere pleasure in moving:—

That this Congress expresses its warm and sincere appreciation of the impartial and efficient manner in which the chairman and vice-chairman have carried out their duties in connection with its deliberations, and also specially thanks Mr. Wood for his practical and inspiring inaugural address.

With this resolution another milestone has been passed—another year's record has been brought to a close. I think that you will agree with me that the

Swansea Congress will rank memorable in the annals of the co-operative congresses. The subject matter of the discussions, and the decisions arrived at will make this Congress one to be remembered. The great success of the public meetings, I think, created a record. My friend and namesake, David, has referred to the "clerk of the weather," who has put on his best behaviour. I have been asked to propose this resolution. I know Mr. Wood personally—you know that this is not always an advantage—but in this case it is. I have known Mr. Wood in his domestic, in his social, industrial, and religious life. We may disagree as to what constitutes greatness, but I will say this without any hesitation, that our present president is a good man. Every good man is a great man. As regards Mr. Gregory, we cannot forget, and we deeply appreciate, the way in which he has carried out the duties of vice-chairman and the helpful and impartial way in which he has helped the president on this occasion. It is not necessary for me to predict that before Mr. Gregory there is a co-operative career of eminence. He is suited to it, you know. A man of his size makes the real progress in the world, ever since the day of Napoleon. My friends are very kind in listening to me at the end of three days' labour. Without prolonging the agony, I wish most sincerely to propose this vote of thanks in no formal way. I believe I am echoing the sentiments of all your hearts and all your souls. Before putting it to the meeting I should like to present to Mr. Wood, on behalf of the Co-operative Union, a copy of "Industrial Co-operation" and, on behalf of the Co-operative Productive Federation, their "Year Book" for 1917. Mr. Gregory, on behalf of the Co-operative Productive Federation, I have to present you with a copy of their "Year Book." Some may ask why Mr. Gregory did not get the other book. The explanation is that he had one given him at Lancaster. The members of the co-operative movement are economists and never repeat themselves.

Mr. T. KILLON (Co-operative Wholesale Society) : I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution so ably proposed by Mr. Evans. The manner in which the chairman has conducted these meetings reflects great credit on him, and, so far as Mr. Gregory is concerned, I think that his advice and assistance have been most valuable. One of the most pleasant memories will be the fire and energy of the young men who have attended this Congress. If that energy and enthusiasm are carried to the various societies and the various circles in which they move and live, then I have a great hope that these Congresses will go on steadily and successfully. Someone said to me last night : "Man, they gave you a fine roasting yesterday." It was to me one of the most delightful experiences. There was nothing more gratifying than to see the spirit put into the debate. It did one other thing. At the meeting on Saturday I referred to the position of individualism. If that spirit of Congress is carried out, individualism, which is practically dying, will be killed. We are on that road when we see that working men are united to seize their opportunities. If they do that our cause, which has met with great success in the past, will receive far greater success in the

future. I think the least we can do is to pass a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks, and in recognition of his services I have to present the president with the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies' "Annual" for 1917, and to Mr. Gregory also. I think that they will find the matter very interesting and instructive. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The vote of thanks was carried amidst loud cheers.

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Evans, Mr. Killon, and ladies and gentlemen, if there is one thing I am disqualified for it is to reply to votes of thanks; this always unnerves me. I am afraid that Mr. Evans has been extravagant as far as I am concerned. I appreciate your vote of thanks. I appreciate your conduct all through the Congress. There is no credit due to me; the success of this Congress emphatically is due to the Congress delegates. I have absolutely had no trouble; there has been no bad feeling. It has been a perfectly peaceful Congress from beginning to end. I sincerely thank and appreciate the helpful way in which the vice-president has conducted himself. I appreciate very much the volumes presented to me. I know something of the book, "Industrial Co-operation," and also of the "Year Book." I thank you very much for the books, which I shall peruse and pursue the principles contained therein. If anything I am anxious to do in this movement, as in others, it is to be as thorough as possible in carrying out the principle in public life. I entered the movement at the inception of my own society 28 years ago. I had no axe of my own to grind. I endeavoured to understand its principles; I found that its principles coincided with the principles of my own religion. I have endeavoured to act up to my co-operative principles in conjunction with my own religious principles all through the time. I have endeavoured to do this to the best of my ability. I thank you for the appreciation you have shown towards me in this Congress. I wish the movement in all its spheres, in all its phases, in all its aspects, unbounded success, and that the work well done at this Congress will secure future success greater than in the past. I must acknowledge the great help which I have received from the vice-chairman, also from the general secretary and officials. I should not have been able to go through this Congress unless I had valuable assistance from those around me.

AUSTRALIA AGAIN.

Mr. PULSFORD also desired to say a few parting words, and was cordially greeted on rising. Your reception, he said, has gone to my heart. Before I go away from here I will write a personal letter to every society in Australia telling them of the manner in which you have received me here. It has always been one of the charms of the co-operative movement—the wonderful way in which it has merged the different aspects of human life, material and spiritual, together. Dividend is a splendid thing, but the spirit of good fellowship, the spirit of friendship, the spirit of unity and of helping one another, which the movement has merged with such ordinary material things as butter and sugar, is one of the greatest charms of the movement. I want

to leave a parting message; it is the impression of everyone who has come from the Front. The remarkable measure of good fellowship throughout our Army demonstrates that that fellowship is possible for men—even when they have no luxurious food or houses, and when you have a great mass of men of different grades and position—to live together and serve together in deep sympathy with one another and to work towards one common purpose. The question is whether we will be able to bring that spirit back with us from the Front and make it dominate us in the common interest. I want co-operators to realise that they have in their own hands the instrument by which this will be possible when these men come back. There will be a longing for a closer fellowship among all classes; there will be a searching and longing to find some open highway towards brotherly interest. Co-operators have that common highway. When the officers come back draw them into meetings, into conferences and exhibitions, and make them realise what is being done by this co-operative movement. It is in your hands. The co-operative movement holds this open highway to that better state of understanding which shall fulfil the Scottish poet's dream of the day when

“Man to man, the world o’er,
Shall brothers be for a’ that.”

Mr. W. GREGORY said: I am deeply grateful for your appreciation of the humble services I have been able to render at this Congress. Although the duties have been very light, they have given me very much pleasure and happiness. I have been attending Congresses for twenty years in one capacity or another, but I am convinced that the decisions arrived at at this Congress are of the greatest and most far-reaching importance and excel anything arrived at at any previous Congress. I believe it will be necessary to exercise, in the days to come, very wise and careful and prudent thought and action in order that we may attain whatsoever we desire to improve the social conditions of the people. Let us, at least, always try to remember that if co-operation is to make the progress it is entitled to make, it must be in the forefront of the great work of the reconstruction of the social life of the nation. I appreciate your vote of thanks for which I thank you.

The honoured custom prescribed that the delegates should sing “Auld Lang Syne.” The delegates followed the custom lustily, and cheers followed. This would have concluded a normal Congress, but the Congress was in Wales, and, led by the Welshmen on the platform, the delegates joined heartily in singing “Land of My Fathers,” and the loud cheering at the conclusion of the anthem closed the 1917 gathering.



APPENDIX.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS CONNECTED WITH CONGRESS.

PUBLIC MEETING AND CONCERT.

CO-OPERATION AND THE COMING CIVILISATION. AN INSPIRING GATHERING.

The Albert Hall was crowded on the Saturday evening, 26th May, the occasion of the first public meeting and concert in connection with the Congress, when the chief *dramatis personæ* were Councillor D. Williams (president of the Swansea Society), Mr. W. Gregory (North-Western Sectional Board), Mr. T. W. Allen (Co-operative Wholesale Society director), and Mr. E. O. Greening.

The gathering was marked by enthusiasm, contributed mainly by the programme of music rendered by the New Siloh Male Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Ivor Owen, L.R.A.M., assisted by Miss H. Williams (prize winner, Royal National Eisteddfod) and Mr. J. Thomas (also prize winner of the National Eisteddfod).

MR. GREGORY'S ADDRESS.

Mr. GREGORY, in the course of his address, said he believed that there was never a time when co-operators might look forward to a realisation

of their hopes and ideals, for the world-war had taught the democracies of the world that they must act in a combined capacity if they were to become the controllers of their own destinies. Never again must a despot, or a group of despots, have the power to plunge the human race in war. After referring to the many movements at work for the betterment of the workers, Mr. Gregory claimed that there was none to equal the co-operative movement, which, in order to make it more powerful, needed unifying. There was no denying the fact that competition as based upon individualism had passed away, and to-day even the small trader has to fear the great trusts and combines. It was unfortunate that the co-operative movement was viewed by many as a shopping movement only, whereas the members of the movement were called upon to solve not only national but international questions; and it was their work to build up a democracy which would be for the good of the people the whole world o'er.

THE CO-OPERATIVE CITY.

Mr. T. W. ALLEN, in his remarks, told how there was a tendency in all civilised countries to escape from the rigours of the competitive system, and how it was the duty of co-operators to build a city, wherein, through association, happy men should be produced rather than goods for market. Co-operation was something more than a material thing. Its purpose was the social regeneration of mankind; its philosophy was friendship; its life, fellowship. They did well to speak of trade, but this was only the material out of which they hoped to build the City of the Future. To satisfy bodily hunger was a first necessity, but in the name of humanity and to the glory of Co-operation let it be said "and none shall go away empty." They worked to dispel distrust, to inspire faith, to let in light on dark places, to quicken each for the common good. Isolated people become suspicious, distrustful, and the more they saw men in co-operation, the more hope had they for mankind.

CONGRESS P.S.A.

One of the pleasantest gatherings in connection with the Congress took place on the Sunday afternoon, when in a town picture palace a delightful programme, consisting of songs (which were very well rendered) and interesting addresses on the ethical side of the movement was gone through. There was an extremely large attendance of delegates and friends, and a collection on behalf of the Blandford Memorial Fund realised the handsome sum of £10. Mr. J. Rhys Davies (Swansea) presided, and Mr. A. Mansbridge (late secretary of the Workers' Educational Association) gave the address.

MONDAY NIGHT'S CONCERT.

ADDRESSES BY MR. LLEUFER THOMAS, M.A., AND
MRS. E. M. PENNY.

The local reception committee provided an excellent concert for the Monday evening, and notwithstanding the delightful weather which prevailed there was an extremely large audience. The concert was held in Congress Hall, and was presided over by Mr. W. H. Bryant (Blaenavon, and secretary of the Western Sectional Board). The Swansea Co-operative Choral Society provided many of the musical items, and their singing, as well as that of the soloists who assisted them, reached a very high standard. The conductor was Mr. Ivor Owen.

CO-OPERATION IN SWANSEA.

The CHAIRMAN referred in terms of praise to the singing of the choir, gracefully introduced the chief speakers, and spoke hopefully of the future of co-operation in Swansea. The society was a fast-growing one, and he was looking forward to it exerting a noble influence on the lives of the people of Swansea in the next quarter of a century.

MRS. PENNY'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. E. M. PENNY (Sheffield), who was introduced by the Chairman as "a real practical co-operator," was the first of the two principal speakers to address the audience. She believed the war had brought them face to face with great issues—issues which the success of the co-operative movement had had a tendency to make them forget. Women could not be fighters at the front, all the men could not be fighters at the front, but they who were left behind, if they were worthy of the liberties which they enjoyed in this country, had the duty imposed upon them of safeguarding with all their power and with all their energy the magnificent structure of self-help that was seen in the co-operative movement. So long as they allowed private enterprise to control their governments and control the sources of supply they would find themselves at the end of the string every time and all the time. She urged them to regard it as a sacred duty to leave a portion of their dividends in their stores for development purposes, and emphasised the importance of the co-operative movement securing control of fields and factories. She also pleaded for greater interest to be shown in things co-operative by members of their societies. The Congress might decide that the time had come when the co-operative movement should have a political party in the House of Commons, but whatever be the decision on that all-important question, they should not forget this: that if they had fifty men in the House of Commons and they had not the rank and file behind

them, they would be of very little use at all. She concluded by quoting one of Ellen Wheeler Wilcox's poems, and emphasised the last line "prepared to fight and do."

A WIDER OUTLOOK URGED.

Mr. D. LLEUFER THOMAS, M.A., Pontypridd (stipendiary magistrate) was the other principal speaker, and he was described by the Chairman as "one of the distinguished sons of Wales." He said he could almost claim Swansea as his co-operative birthplace, because, for a number of years, he had the privilege of serving upon the committee of the local society. He said it had occurred to him sometimes that the educational efforts of the co-operative movement were rather too exclusively concentrated upon gaining new members to their societies, rather too exclusively in making co-operators. That was necessary, but on the whole he ventured to think that the movement had more to gain by taking a wider outlook and regarding co-operation as a force which was manifesting itself in all forms of social and political activity. They wanted to teach the people industrial history, economics, political philosophy, and history generally, because it was in that way they could best lay the foundations of the true co-operative commonwealth. He was glad to know that in their Congress they had passed a resolution in favour of the need of compulsory education up to eighteen years of age. That was an absolute necessity in this country, but there was another form of education which he wanted to see developed, and that was education in the true and noble principles of citizenship. For the spread of that form of education they need not wait for the Government to pass an Act; they could do it themselves, and in doing so he felt certain they would find their converts to co-operation, because the people who studied citizenship could not be blind to the advantages of co-operation. Mr. Thomas also spoke approvingly of the objects of the Workers' Educational Association in which he said he was deeply interested.

EDUCATIONAL SESSION.

ADDRESS BY THE REV. W. TEMPLE, M.A.

(President of the Workers' Educational Association.)

The Central Education Committee held a public meeting in the Albert Hall on Tuesday, 29th May, and the chairman (Mr. W. R. Rae) had the pleasure of welcoming a large number of delegates and friends. The chief speaker was the Rev. W. Temple, M.A., president of the Workers' Educa-

tional Association, whose excellent address on educational reconstitution was highly appreciated. Many varied items were also rendered to the evident delight of the audience.

The CHAIRMAN briefly introduced the Rev. W. Temple and referred in praiseworthy terms to the work he was doing, not only for the Workers' Educational Association, but for educational development generally.

Mr. Temple said: I am indeed delighted to find myself present here at this gathering of the Co-operative Congress, and speaking at this meeting in connection with it. There has been a very close association between the Co-operative Union and our work in the Workers' Educational Association for many years, and I am here, of course, as the programme tells us, partly at any rate as representing that association. I thank the chairman with real gratitude for the eulogy he has seen fit to bestow upon me and my work, but I want to say, if he will allow me, that the only man who is really entitled to that eulogy is Mr. Albert Mansbridge, to whom we owe more than to any other man the educational developments of the last ten or fifteen years. In the matter of education he has been in the nature of a teacher to me, and I have gladly been his disciple. In my undergraduate period he was my chief, and took hold of me and showed me what I was to do. I have tried to do it ever since; and I am going to do it more and more, as I am convinced it is a good thing to do. But it was Mr. Albert Mansbridge who started me doing it, and that is why I say that he is really entitled to the eulogy which the chairman so kindly bestowed upon me.

I suppose at a gathering held under such auspices as this one is it is hardly necessary for me to say what I really came to say, that is, that the whole question of the future, the whole great question as to whether the world which has to be built up after the war is going to be a better world than the one which is now going down in ruins, really depends in the end upon education. It is not a question of schooling; for education is a great deal more than schooling; though you will want schooling as a part of it. For what we as educational reformers are concerned about is the same thing as all other reformers are concerned about, namely, the question whether every human being is to have the means and the liberty and the opportunity to live his or her own life, working out his or her destinies, according to their faculties, and not being dragooned, or drilled, or pressed into particular grooves and ruts. That is the question before us, and as I say it is all a matter of education. You have in your Congress and elsewhere been discussing questions affecting your own great organisation, and when you do that you know as well as I do you are inevitably brought up against all the industrial questions of the time, and your own problem, as you are probably aware, has to be settled in relation to them. It is impossible for any body of people, great or small, to isolate themselves from the great movements of the time and merely stand on one side. We must take our part in the general movement, for it or against. There is no alternative; and when we look at that general movement, at once we see that if Labour

is to have that full share in the control of industry which we believe it ought to have, it must win for itself a fuller education, both in the shape of a fuller knowledge of the problems that have to be solved and a fuller development of the faculties by which people are able to understand and determine all those questions which confront them. This seems to be a self-evident proposition, and yet I am not quite sure whether until lately Labour, as a whole, has seen the vital necessity for education. Recent gatherings have, however, given evidence that it sees it now. I have in mind the resolutions passed by the great Labour forces such as the co-operative movement, the trade union movement, and the labour party, which suggest—and which fill us with hope for the future—that the working class movements of the country are beginning to put education continually in the foreground, and in an altogether new way. That is a great omen for the future.

It was my duty during the first year of the war to go about the country, as president of the Workers' Educational Association, taking counsel with groups of our people in different parts to see how we could most wisely preserve our machinery, so that when this time of national trouble is over we might begin again our work in full force. We thought we should have some difficulty in keeping our machinery going at all, and in the first months of the war it certainly seemed as though we must shut down for fear of sheer disaster. But what did I find as I went about the country? I found in the main that, broadly speaking, two convictions were universally held. On the one hand there were people who said that now we were in this thing we must see it through, though that was questioned in a few places. Speaking generally, however, the great mass of opinion seemed to be that we should have to go through with the war; but alongside with it, and held more strongly, ran the view that never again—never must it happen that the people of the country should be called out in war over a quarrel of which they had never heard; that in future the destinies of the people must be in the people's own hands. But if we look back and ask ourselves why it was the war came we have to say—have we not, if we are to be quite honest with ourselves—that the Labour movement before the war cloud burst had tended to neglect the whole sphere of foreign politics, and took it for granted that this awful and terrible catastrophe would not come. We thought we were building on secure and solid foundations, and they have come away beneath our feet. We are now free to acknowledge that questions which affect our national life and our relations with the people of other countries are the concern of the whole people, and no one less than the whole people, and that the whole people, therefore, have the right to take them into their own control. How are we going to do it? So long as our people do not understand the broad issues which may lead to conflict so long will they have to be content to follow the lead of those who have made themselves masters of the facts, or seem to be in possession of the facts. We cannot have democracy without knowledge. It is not a question of a good or bad democracy, because we cannot have a democracy at all

without knowledge. It was essential that the working classes should have knowledge and that they should get it for themselves; for, as the Bishop of Oxford said at one of the annual meetings of the Workers' Educational Association: "Ignorance will always be trodden down under the heel of knowledge." That is where we have to start from. If the people are to control their own destinies they must know the broad outlines of the problems there are called upon to solve. That is where knowledge comes in. They can call in the expert to work out the details, but they themselves must master the broad outlines, and by and through education form sound judgments; and unless they do that they will be swayed this way and that way, and their decisions on the problems confronting them will have debility, and not what they should have, stability. That is why I say that if you have democracy at all it must be an educated democracy. When we look at the present system of education, in order to see where our reform is to begin, we find that it rests upon the principle of an indispensable minimum of education. It rests upon the belief that there is a certain amount that the citizen of every community ought to know; and after that it is a matter of private concern whether anybody gets any more or not. That appears in the regulation that if a child is clever enough to profit by continued education, that child may leave school early; or, otherwise, if the child has not the faculty of gaining by prolonged schooling, it should stay at school the full time. This is the law of the land, and the fact makes it perfectly plain that the principle behind it is the "indispensable minimum." We have to get that "indispensable minimum" out, and substitute an attainable maximum. We do not want to ask for what is in the circumstances impossible. There is a great deal of social reform and other reform—increases of wages and the rest—necessary before you can expect the working people to be enthusiastic about education. You have to make your reform all round, and not try to carry it out in one isolated department; but we can take as the root principle of our educational reform, the recognition of an attainable maximum instead of an indispensable minimum. That is the first great point. The next is this: Every inhabitant of this country, up to the age of eighteen, should be regarded primarily as a subject of education and not primarily as a factor in industry. If there is to be any employment of children before that age it must be regarded from the point of view of the value of it to the child, and not the value to the employers. There may be, during that period, technical education as well as higher education, but it, too, must be for a real development of the child's faculties, and with primary regard to the interests of the child, and not with primary regard to the production of material wealth. You will, in the end, produce more material wealth if you set about things that way. Expenditure on education is the most remunerative form of investment in the world. It is the best investment we can make. It will all come back; but you cannot set out in a balance sheet how much comes back, and it is therefore hard to convince

the forces of darkness when they set up an ideal of "economy" in these matters. This, then, should be our next great requirement. Everyone, up to eighteen, to be regarded primarily as a subject of education, and not as a factor in industry. We have not got to that stage yet. Look at a document that has come out lately, the report of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education. If, what that suggests is done, it will be a real advance, but it is not enough. It says there that there shall be education, after the age of fourteen, of at least eight hours per week. What does that rest upon? It rests upon the supposition that the child of fourteen is a factor in industry, to whom we shall give education only so far as we can. Now we say: First, education, and secondarily industry. We, who are leading the advance at this time, want expressions of opinion to come, free and fast. We shall be aiding the cause of real progress in the country if we make it very clear that those who stand for democracy and labour, demand, as a first necessity in their programme, an immense advance in education.

When you give men freedom—real effective freedom—the first use they make of it is to build up brotherhood—a real fellowship. Our educational work must have no doctrine at the back of it. We shall all be fellow-students. We shall not be teachers and lecturers, but just senior and junior fellow-students. We shall desire all our fellow-students to consider what we have to say, and then we shall consider what the other people have to say, and then make up our minds about the matter. It may be that fewer people in that way will be brought to see things as we see them, than would perhaps otherwise be the case, but we shall know that those who differ from us are believing and living up to their convictions, because they have thought the matter out for themselves. If there is one thing more than another from which we are suffering in the intellectual sphere, it is that people tend to repeat professions of belief which they have never had any personal hold of whatsoever. There is only one way to give a living grasp of any belief, and it is to let men feel that they are at liberty to take or to reject as they like.

One of our teachers in the Workers' Educational Association asked to be removed from a particular place and to be sent elsewhere. He was asked the reason, and his reply was: "We have got in a situation where they believe a thing because I say it, and I cannot teach them any more." He believed in the real spirit of education, and felt that as soon as the students believed anything because he told them it, he ceased to be of use to them. That is the spirit of education. We have to believe in the freedom of the mind to think out its own belief, as we value every thing in the world truly sacred. Freedom is the basis of all that is sacred. In the Workers' Educational Association you have an instrument potent in developing the true kind of education. I believe that you are setting to work to do a great deal of education in and through your own movement. All strength to your elbow. We do not ask anybody else to stand aside, and to keep their activities separate from ours. We support all education wherever it is

going on. What we want is to stimulate people, and to give them an opportunity of getting hold of materials on which to exercise their "intellectual teeth." We are delighted to know that your movement is going in for education in a new and more energetic way. I think I need not say anything here to express our confidence, and hope that in all you do you will have the ideal of which I have spoken. Just as the development of education is absolutely necessary to freedom, so the development of freedom and regard for the sanctity of freedom is absolutely vital to true education. The two things are linked together all along the line. If you try to impose doctrine in your education you will not be breeding free men. When you get your citizens free economically or politically, if they have not developed their faculties they are not fully free, and they are not in the wisest way to give effect to their abilities. For the sacred cause of freedom and education, I am here pleading in your most willing ears.

Mr. W. CLAYTON (member of the Central Education Committee), who presided over the later stages of the meeting, also said a few words. He expressed the opinion that so far as speeches and singing were concerned, that was one of the best educational gatherings they had had in connection with Congress. They had listened to an address that night from Mr. Temple, and if the ideas contained therein were carried out it would make for the future generation a better world than the world they were living in now. So far as the singing was concerned, they knew that it touches the deepest parts of their nature, and that night they had had it at its best. Without spending time in moving a vote of thanks he wanted them to accord it in a hearty fashion, which they unreservedly did.

A VISIT TO MUMBLES.

The local reception committee made arrangements for the delegates to visit Mumbles in the afternoon of Wednesday, when an enjoyable time was spent.

CLOSING GATHERING.

CIVIC RECEPTION FOR THE DELEGATES.

The Albert Hall was a scene of brightness and animation on the Wednesday evening, 30th May, when a civic reception brought the Congress proceedings to a close. In the absence, through indisposition, of Alderman Davies (the Mayor), the guests were received by the Deputy-Mayor. In an address of welcome, the Deputy-Mayor congratulated the Congress on the businesslike way in which they had carried out the proceedings. As

regards Councillor David Williams (president of the Swansea Co-operative Society), he could assure them that a better Mayor never sat in the Mayoral chair during his year of office. "You anticipate sending some co-operators to Parliament, I understand," the Deputy-Mayor proceeded. "Opinions may differ, of course, but I think that he is the best man you have got. If he made as good a member of Parliament as a Mayor, you will be very pleased with him."

An excellent musical programme was provided, and during the evening Mr. E. O. Greening proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor, and on behalf of the guests expressed their sincere sympathy with him in his illness.

This was seconded by Mr. Anderson (York), and carried with acclamation. The Deputy-Mayor made a fitting acknowledgment.



Resolutions Passed at the Swansea Congress,

28th, 29th, and 30th MAY, 1917.



1. Resolution *re* Russian Emancipation.

That this 49th Congress of British co-operators assembled at Swansea, representing over 3½ million members who, with their families, form more than one-fourth of the population of the United Kingdom, heartily congratulates the Russian nation on the achievement of its political liberty and of freedom for democratic government. It expresses the fervent hope that under the new conditions the progress and prosperity of Russia and its peoples may reach their fullest development; and it further expresses the hope that in the new democracy the Russian co-operative movement may take its part with other democratic organisations in contributing to the prosperity and welfare of the nation.

2. Educational Reconstruction.

That this Congress, convinced of the important contribution which a satisfactory system of education can make to the welfare of the nation, and dissatisfied with the present scope and organisation of education in the United Kingdom, demands a reorganisation of education on lines that will facilitate the fuller development of the childhood, manhood, and womanhood of the nation; and in particular insists:—

- (1) That the present half-time system be abolished, all exemptions below the age of 14 discontinued, the leaving age at the close of the war being raised to 15;
- (2) That continued education be compulsory up to the age of 18, free from specialised craft education;
- (3) That maintenance grants for students be provided where necessary;
- (4) That the Government take such steps as are necessary to enable qualified candidates to pass to the Universities unhindered by considerations of expense;
- (5) That recognition be given to the importance of the teacher's personality in education by raising the status and increasing the salaries of teachers, to provide them with adequate reward for their services, and as a means of attracting and retaining in the service of education the men and women best fitted for the teaching profession.

3. Excess Profits Duty.

That this Congress, whilst recognising the present necessity for a special tax on excess profits arising from or made possible by the war conditions, indignantly protests against the tax being levied on co-operative societies, as such societies do not make profits and cannot therefore make excess profits; and the imposition upon them of this tax has produced serious anomalies and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. This Congress therefore urges upon the Government the desirability of effecting such amendments to the Finance Acts as will remove from co-operative societies the unjust burden of this tax.

4. Income Tax.

That this Congress strongly urges upon all co-operative societies the necessity of continuing and increasing the campaign of propaganda so well begun against the agitation of the Private Traders' Associations for the taxation of co-operative trade, and declares its determination to maintain by every means in its power the sound economic position of the co-operative movement in relation to taxation, which has been declared by the Inland Revenue authorities for many years past and confirmed by successive Chancellors of the Exchequer.

5. Representation on Government Committees, &c.

That in view of the fact that the co-operative movement is the only organised body of consumers in the country; that co-operators with their families constitute over 26 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom, and that through the medium of their associated wholesale and retail distributive agencies and productive works, they have been, and are, desirous of being of the greatest possible service to the State, this Congress calls upon the Government to take steps to ensure that this section of the community is adequately represented upon the various controlling authorities that have been or will be appointed to deal with the organisation of production, distribution, and exchange during the war, and requests that this resolution may be given effect to as follows:—

- (a) By the inclusion of representatives of co-operative organisations upon the *personnel* of the staffs of expert advisers attached to the special administrative bodies dealing with matters arising from the war.
- (b) By proportionate representation upon the Departmental Committees appointed from time to time, for the purpose of investigating and advising the respective departments on the various matters referred to them.
- (c) By the inclusion of representatives of co-operative societies on any local food committees or public bodies authorised by the Government to assist in the administration of any system of rationing or food distribution put in operation.

That the Parliamentary Committee be requested to take all possible steps to give effect to the resolution and, if necessary, to ask the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the subject.

6. Representation of Co-operators in Parliament and on Local Bodies.

That, in the opinion of this Congress, the time has now arrived for the co-operative movement to take the necessary steps to secure direct representation in Parliament and on all local and administrative bodies as the only way of effectively voicing its demands and safeguarding its interests.

It therefore calls upon the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to take such steps as may be necessary to put into operation the terms of the foregoing resolution.

7. Joint Exhibitions Committee.

That this Congress expresses its regret that the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society have not given a definite reply to the Central Board with regard to the proposed withdrawal of their representatives from the Joint Exhibitions Committee, and it urges that they reconsider the matter as promised at last Congress with the object of continuing their representation on the committee and taking part in the Joint Exhibitions when the opportune time arrives.

8. Trade-unionism and Co-operation.

That this Congress adopts the resolution passed at the Trades Union Congress held in Birmingham, September, 1916, and authorises the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to appoint six representatives to meet a similar number to be appointed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee.

9. Honorary Members.

That the following gentlemen be appointed as honorary members of the Central Board for the coming Congress year :—

Midland : Messrs. E. L. Griffiths, D. McInnes, S. Redfern, W. W. Smith, and G. Woodhouse.

Northern : Messrs. H. R. Bailey and W. Crooks.

North-Western : Messrs. C. J. Beckett and H. Stuttard.

Scottish : Messrs. D. H. Gerrard and A. Meldrum.

Southern : Messrs. A. H. D. Acland, A. W. Golightly, E. O. Greening, and H. J. May.

South-Western : Messrs. A. Bullock, R. R. Prynne, and C. Vaughan.

Western : Mr. E. R. Wood.

10. General Co-operative Survey.

Resolved, that this Congress accepts the educational, literature, and propaganda portion of the Survey Report, and instructs the Central Board

to take the necessary steps to carry the suggestions into effect—with the *proviso* that paragraphs 1, 2, 17, and 19 be deferred to next Congress to come up for consideration with other constitutional changes that are then to be discussed.

11. National Polley.

That this Congress heartily welcomes the action of the Central Board in formulating a national co-operative policy, a national co-operative programme, and a national propaganda scheme, and believes that their action will give more definiteness to the movement's activities and lead to greater success; it approves the proposals contained in the Central Board's recommendations; and instructs the Central Board to take all necessary steps to carry the proposals into effect.

12. Food Supplies.

That this Congress emphatically condemns the unsatisfactory methods of the Food Controller, these having resulted in high prices and consequent profiteering, and it demands the immediate reorganisation of the entire machinery of the Food Control Department by securing adequate representation of co-operative and other working class organisations on the Food Commission, without which it cannot be possible to exercise an equitable and efficient control.

13. Co-operation and Agriculture.

That this Congress considers it advisable in the interests of the consumer that farming be undertaken by distributive societies, either individually or in federation, as a means of controlling prices and supplies of foodstuffs and raw materials.

14. The Milk Supply.

In view of the importance of obtaining the sufficient production and effective distribution of pure milk, it is in the national interest that the supply should be permanently under Government control, and its sales supervised by the granting of licenses to those distributors only whose methods are in accordance with regulations so framed as to secure cleanliness, purity, economy of distribution, and a fair price to the consumer.

15. Nationalisation of the Railways and Waterways of the United Kingdom.

That this Co-operative Congress is of opinion that the railways and waterways of the United Kingdom should be nationalised and worked in the interests of the people's convenience in travel, trade, and commerce. The shareholders to be treated in a fair and equitable manner.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade.

16. Exemption from Military Service.

That this Congress instructs the Joint Parliamentary Committee to take immediate steps to urge upon the Government by all the means available the necessity of according the same opportunities of exemption from military service of indispensable men in "pivot" positions in the co-operative movement, as are accorded to private trading firms and industrial organisations.

17. Auditor.

That Mr. T. Wood (Manchester) be appointed as auditor of the accounts of the Union for the ensuing year.

18. Place of next Congress.

That the Congress of 1918 be held at Manchester in Whit-week.



Resolutions of the Central Board.



AT ITS MEETING BEFORE CONGRESS, 21ST APRIL, 1917.

1. Labour Adviser.

That a labour adviser be appointed and the selection be left to the United Board.

2. Parliamentary Representation.

That the Board support at Congress the resolution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Representation of Co-operators in Parliament,

That all the resolutions on this question be printed at the end of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

3. The following resolutions were adopted for inclusion in the Report to Congress.

(a) EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

That this Congress, whilst recognising the present necessity for a special tax on excess profits arising from or made possible by the war conditions, indignantly protests against the tax being levied on co-operative societies, as such societies do not make profits and cannot therefore make excess profits; and the imposition upon them of this tax has produced serious anomalies and inflicted grave injustice upon many societies. This Congress therefore urges upon the Government the desirability of effecting such amendments to the Finance Acts as will remove from co-operative societies the unjust burden of this tax.

(b) EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

That this Congress, convinced of the important contribution which a satisfactory system of education can make to the welfare of the nation, and dissatisfied with the present scope and organisation of education in the United Kingdom, demands a reorganisation of education on lines that will facilitate the fuller development of the childhood, manhood, and womanhood of the nation; and in particular insists:—

- (1) That the present half-time system be abolished, all exemptions below the age of 14 discontinued, the leaving age at the close of the war being raised to 15;

- (2) That continued education be compulsory up to the age of 18, free from specialised craft education ;
- (3) That maintenance grants for students be provided where necessary ;
- (4) That the Government take such steps as are necessary to enable qualified candidates to pass to the Universities unhindered by considerations of expense ;
- (5) That recognition be given to the importance of the teacher's personality in education by raising the status and increasing the salaries of teachers, to provide them with adequate reward for their services, and as a means of attracting and retaining in the service of education the men and women best fitted for the teaching profession.

4. Report of Survey Committee.

That the report of the Survey Committee to be submitted to Congress be considered at the meeting of the Central Board to be held at Swansea, on Saturday, 26th May.

5. Co-operation in Russia.

That a resolution be submitted to Congress congratulating the Co-operators of Russia on the emancipation of their country, and expressing our best wishes for the future of their co-operative movement.

That an invitation to be represented at Congress be sent to the representatives of Russian co-operators in London.

6. Meeting of District Representatives at Congress.

That in view of the difficulties at the present time, the suggested meeting of representatives from the various district associations be postponed until the Congress of 1918.

AT ITS MEETING BEFORE CONGRESS, SATURDAY,
26TH MAY, 1917.

1. Grants to Guilds.

That grants be made to the Women's Guilds as follows :—(a) Scottish, £175 ; (b) Irish, £50.

2. Parliamentary Representation.

That the Joint Parliamentary Committee be allowed to submit a resolution to Congress in the terms of the one contained in their report, but amended as required.

3. Amendment by the Wholesale and other Societies.

The Co-operative Wholesale and other societies had sent in an amendment on the question of "Parliamentary Representation," which the Standing Orders Committee had decided to deal with as a motion for adjournment. Objection was taken to this course by the Central Board, as in their opinion it would prevent full discussion of the subject, and it was resolved—That the Standing Orders Committee be requested to reconsider their decision.

4. That resolutions be submitted to Congress on the following matters, viz. :—

(1) Russian Revolution; (2) Joint Exhibitions; (3) National Policy; and (4) Food Prices.

AT ITS MEETING DURING CONGRESS, 29TH MAY, 1917.

1. Office Committee.

That the sectional boards be asked to nominate their representatives on the Office Committee, the names to be submitted to the United Board at its first meeting for adoption.

2. Education Committee.

(a) That the sectional boards and other organisations, with the exception of the A.U.C.E., be empowered to appoint representatives to act on the Education Committee.

(b) That the appointment of a representative by the A.U.C.E. be referred to the United Board.

3. Joint Propaganda Committee.

That the Midland and North-Western Sectional Boards be requested to appoint their usual number of representatives on this committee.

4. Trades Union Congress.

That the Board of the section in which the English Trades Union Congress is to be held be asked to appoint a representative to attend, and that the Scottish Sectional Board be at liberty to appoint a representative to attend the Scottish Trades Union Congress.

5. National Union of Teachers' Conference.

That the appointment of a delegate to attend the above conference be referred to the Board of the section in which the conference will be held.

6. Labour Adviser.

That the appointment of Mr. J. Pollitt as Labour Adviser be confirmed, but that the commencement of his duties be deferred until October, and

if the present circumstances with regard to the staff then prevail, the matter be again considered with the view to a further postponement; further, that Messrs. Evans, Fleming, and Wilson convey the terms of this resolution to Mr. Pollitt.

7. Trades Unionism and Co-operation.

(a) That Messrs. R. Fleming, G. Goodenough, W. Millerchip, W. H. Watkins, D. Williams, and G. Wilson be appointed to meet a similar number of representatives from the Trades Union Congress with the object of carrying out the resolution passed by both Congresses *re* "Trades Unionism and Co-operation."

(b) That any vacancy which may arise in our representation be filled by the United Board.

8. Meeting of the Central Board.

That the question of holding an early meeting of the Central Board be referred to the United Board.

9. Chairman of Central Board.

That the appointment of a chairman for the Central Board be deferred until the next meeting.



STATISTICS
OF
SOCIETIES' TRADE, &c.,
FOR THE YEAR 1916.

Annual Co-operative Statistics

FOR THE YEAR 1916.

INTRODUCTORY.

In order that the statistics given in the following pages may be correctly understood a few words by explanation of their value and qualifications may be useful. Following the practice set last year, separate figures for the various types of societies in each section are given in each sectional summary in the body of the statistics, whilst comparisons with the figures for last year are given for each section in this introduction.

Membership.—In reading the statistics it is well to notice the various types of society in the movement, and in estimating the progress of the movement to follow each type separately rather than the whole collectively. Thus the membership of the retail distributive societies forms the best basis in estimating the growth of membership. The *total* membership of the movement includes the members of the productive societies and of the wholesale societies; and the membership of these societies includes other societies and individual members who are already counted in the membership of retail distributive societies. Comparisons between different societies and districts should be made cautiously, as some societies allow only one in a household to be a member of the society, whilst other societies allow open membership. This factor also affects the average capital per member and average sales per member.

Capital.—The capital figures of the movement require careful discrimination. The capital of the wholesale societies is almost exclusively provided by the retail distributive societies; and much of that of the productive societies is similarly provided, so that when the capital of all types of societies is added together, as in the grand summary and sectional summaries, some of the capital is counted more than once. The loan capital credited to retail distributive societies includes loans deposited by members, penny-bank deposits (over £2,000,000), bank overdrafts, and sundry items, such as sales-club deposits, and employees' surety deposits. From the point of view of the society all these are capital employed in working the business; but only a part of it represents members' claims for loan capital.

Trade.—The total trade of the movement includes both wholesale and retail trade. The best test of our command over the consumers' demand is, therefore, the sales of the retail distributive societies; whilst the sales of the

wholesale societies and productive societies give us the data showing how far societies are supplying themselves from these co-operative sources. It should be remembered, however, in this connection that the sales of the wholesale societies and productive societies are given at wholesale prices, and those of the retail societies are given at retail prices. Also, it should be noted that a small proportion of the sales of the wholesale and productive societies consists of sales to purchasers other than retail societies, whilst the sales of the productive societies to the wholesale societies are counted twice over, once when the productive societies sell goods to the wholesale societies, and again when the wholesales re-sell these goods.

Production.—The figures given in the summaries show the value of some of the productions emanating from co-operative factories; but the productions of retail societies are not shown. The retail societies produce nearly as much as all other productive agencies put together. In estimating the value of productions, further caution must be exercised. The output from the tea estates and cocoa factory jointly owned by the two wholesales is not included in the value of the wholesales' productions though included in their distributive trade. The flour milled by the wholesale societies counts twice over when used by the bakeries of any productive or distributive society. Transfers from one wholesale factory to another factory also count twice in the returns.

The number of workers engaged in production is one of the best tests of the development of production; but this is not entirely satisfactory either, for statistics show that the output per worker has been increasing during recent years.

Profits or Surplus.—These are the figures of profit or surplus before the share interest has been deducted. Interest on loan capital has been deducted, so that profits would appear greater if societies had less loan capital and a corresponding increase in share capital.

Owing for Goods.—The figures given under this heading include not only the ordinary members' debts, but amounts owing to productive departments on contracts and amounts owing for goods supplied on the hire-purchase system. It is probably the case that member' debts are reduced at the end of each trading period by requiring members to clear their accounts before the books are closed; and the amount is probably higher at other times during the quarter or half year.

THE FIGURES FOR 1916.

The statistics issued in the following pages show that the movement during the year 1916 again made considerable progress. This progress is most emphasised in the matter of membership, though capital and trade both show considerable increases. For the increase in the amount of capital a partial explanation lies in the fact that a large number of societies have during the past year, or the preceding year, amended their rules by removing restrictions of various kinds which either restricted or prevented members from

accumulating the full amount of capital permitted by the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. Against this factor, must be considered the reduction of dividends, which has been fairly general throughout the movement, and which has doubtless had some influence upon the accumulation of capital, though the reduction in the rate per £ has been to some extent made up by the increased sales per member due to higher prices. Stocks again show an increase in value due to higher prices. The reserve funds for the movement as a whole show an increase of about 10 per cent on the amount of these funds for last year. Net profits for all the movement as a whole show an increase of about £2,000,000; and wholesale and retail trade together show an increase of about £20,000,000.

The total number of workers in the movement at the end of 1916 is given as 158,715, as compared with 155,379 at the end of 1915, an increase of 3,336. The number engaged in production and distribution respectively, and the comparison with previous years, are given in the following table:—

Year.	Total Workers.	ENGAGED IN				WAGES.	
		Production.		Distribution.		Productive.	Distributive
		Number.	Per cent of total.	Number.	Per cent of total.		
1914.....	148,264	63,275	42·68	84,989	57·32	£ 3,984,783	£ 5,228,681
1915.....	155,379	66,486	42·79	88,893	57·21	4,269,017	5,659,909
1916....	158,715	62,401	39·32	96,314	60·68	4,546,874	6,291,201

The percentage of total employees to membership of retail distributive societies—which gives an indication of the extent to which we are employing our own members—was 4·85 per cent at the end of 1914; 4·76 per cent at the end of 1915; and 4·51 per cent at the end of 1916.

We are glad to say that, owing to the date of accepting the returns having been extended, a larger number of returns has this year been received from societies than in previous years, and the statistics are therefore more complete and up to date than usual. We propose, now, to review the activities of the various types of societies.

RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.*

MEMBERSHIP.

Last year we were able to record that the increase in membership for 1915 created a record, and it is pleasing to note that the figures for 1916 create

* In connection with the statistics for the retail distributive societies in the Western, North-Western, and Midland Sections, it is desired to point out that several societies, formerly included in the Western and North-Western Sections, are now included in the new Shropshire and Mid-Wales District, and this district is included in the Midland Section. In the tabular statement of statistics of the Shropshire and Mid-Wales district, given in the body of the Statistics (see page 666), the districts from which the members of the new districts have been transferred are given.

another record. The increase for 1916 was 255,416, as against 210,514 for the year 1915, the total membership at the end of 1916 being 3,520,227. The North-Western Section shows the largest increase, with 82,000 additional members, but the percentage increase is greatest in the Southern Section. The Southern Section from the point of view of membership now ranks third in importance.

MEMBERSHIP OF RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

SECTION.	1914.	1915.	1916.	Increase for year 1916.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	
Irish	22,518	24,126	26,329	2,203
Midland	399,243	435,144	472,185	37,041
Northern	351,169	374,535	403,354	28,819
North-Western	1,207,961	1,269,257	1,351,308	82,051
Scottish	454,119	478,420	514,327	35,907
Southern	399,366	440,511	482,085	41,574
South-Western	114,408	125,347	136,498	11,151
Western	105,513	117,471	134,141	16 670
United Kingdom	3,054,297	3,264,811	3,520,227	255,416

SHARE CAPITAL.

The share capital of the retail distributive societies again shows a considerable increase. The increase during the year 1916 creates a new record, being approximately £4,000,000. It is interesting to note, as will be seen from the table given below, that with the exception of the South-Western Section the average share capital per member has risen in all sections.

SHARE CAPITAL.

SECTION.	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Total	Per Mem- ber.	Total.	Per Mem- ber.	Total.	Per Mem- ber.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	159,190	7.07	188,437	7.81	216,406	8.22
Midland	4,488,439	11.24	5,155,007	11.85	5,864,702	12.42
Northern	5,383,495	15.33	5,798,633	15.48	6,357,489	15.76
North-Western ...	17,771,777	14.71	18,847,961	14.85	20,259,789	14.99
Scottish	6,166,677	13.58	6,608,367	13.81	7,134,290	13.87
Southern	3,433,567	8.60	4,041,952	9.18	4,553,273	9.44
South-Western	1,031,555	9.02	1,206,307	9.62	1,276,955	9.36
Western	1,138,349	10.79	1,295,306	11.03	1,490,299	11.11
United Kingdom .	39,573,049	12.96	43,141,970	13.21	47,153,203	13.39

LOAN CAPITAL.

Loan capital also shows an increase, but comparisons in regard to loan capital are somewhat misleading, as the figures given as loan capital in the returns of retail distributive societies include bank overdrafts, penny-bank deposits, and sundry items not strictly members' loan capital. The penny bank deposits, which, at the end of 1915, amounted to £2,168,063, were at the end of 1916 £2,547,191.

LOAN CAPITAL.

SECTION.	1915.		1916.	
	Total.	Per Member.	Total.	Per Member.
	£	£	£	£
Irish	29,593	1.23	39,686	1.51
Midland	712,805	1.64	767,015	1.62
Northern	581,575	1.55	635,932	1.65
North-Western	1,731,815	1.36	1,793,762	1.33
Scottish	1,696,420	3.55	1,836,277	3.57
Southern	595,618	1.35	627,357	1.30
South-Western	129,027	1.03	179,078	1.31
Western	229,773	1.96	260,042	1.94
United Kingdom	5,706,626	1.75	6,169,149	1.75

RESERVE FUNDS.

The reserve and insurance funds show an increase of over £200,000 for the year, but owing to the more rapid increase of membership and capital, the average per member and the ratio to share and loan capital show a decline when compared with the figures of twelve months ago.

RESERVE FUNDS.

SECTION.	1915.				1916.			
	Total.	Per Member.	% of Share Capital.	% of Share and Loan Capital.	Total.	Per Member.	% of Share Capital.	% of Share and Loan Capital.
	£	£	%	%	£	£	%	%
Irish	18,386	.76	9.76	8.43	19,601	.74	9.06	7.65
Midland	308,317	.71	5.98	5.25	351,105	.74	5.99	5.29
Northern	293,642	.78	5.06	4.6	308,949	.77	4.86	4.40
North-Western ..	1,091,487	.86	5.79	5.30	1,156,745	.86	5.71	5.25
Scottish	857,463	1.79	12.93	10.32	903,805	1.76	12.67	10.08
Southern	281,501	.64	6.96	6.07	329,166	.68	7.23	6.35
South-Western ..	166,751	1.33	14.82	12.49	171,928	1.26	13.46	11.81
Western	137,504	1.17	10.62	9.02	147,895	1.10	9.92	8.45
United Kingdom.	3,155,051	.97	7.31	6.46	3,389,194	.96	7.19	6.36

TRADE.

The figures of retail distributive trade again show a remarkable increase. Whilst the trade for 1915 revealed a record increase of £15,000,000 over the figures for 1914, the figures for 1916 reveal a still greater increase of £19,000,000 over the figures for 1915. A large part of this increase is undoubtedly due to the high prices now prevailing, but the difficulties of securing supplies have prevented societies from selling as large a quantity of goods as would otherwise have been possible. The figures of sales are given in the following tables, from which it will be seen that the sales per member are still highest in the Scottish Section:—

SALES.

SECTION.	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Total.	Per Member.	Total.	Per Member.	Total.	Per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	617,677	27.43	711,306	29.48	877,816	33.34
Midland	9,588,670	24.02	11,900,454	27.35	13,975,722	29.60
Northern	12,272,928	34.95	13,969,702	37.30	17,017,284	42.19
North-Western ..	33,042,785	27.35	38,416,205	30.27	44,799,153	33.15
Scottish	18,018,860	39.68	19,955,472	41.71	24,065,214	46.79
Southern	8,473,037	21.22	10,287,269	23.35	12,425,005	25.77
South-Western ..	2,152,257	18.81	2,816,726	22.47	2,883,333	21.12
Western	3,798,015	36.00	4,500,645	38.31	5,645,023	42.08
United Kingdom	87,964,229	28.80	102,557,779	31.41	121,688,550	34.57

OWING FOR GOODS.

The amount owing for goods shows an increase during 1916, this increase being general for the whole of the movement. It is no doubt partly accounted for by the higher prices now prevailing, but that it should increase at all, even under these circumstances, must be regretted.

OWING FOR GOODS.

SECTION.	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Amount.	Average per Member.	Amount.	Average per Member.	Amount.	Average per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish	22,347	.99	24,074	1.00	29,448	1.12
Midland	73,570	.18	71,517	.16	86,700	.18
Northern	254,173	.72	238,364	.64	280,016	.69
North-Western	334,913	.28	302,120	.24	352,615	.26
Scottish	440,631	.97	436,633	.91	502,993	.98
Southern	102,226	.26	102,115	.23	110,045	.23
South-Western	20,172	.18	20,296	.16	25,880	.19
Western	71,096	.67	84,818	.72	97,514	.73
United Kingdom	1,319,128	.43	1,279,937	.39	1,485,211	.42

WORKERS.

The number of workers employed by retail distributive societies at the end of 1916 was 115,651, as against 109,449 last year, an increase of 6,202. The following table shows their classification, their average wage, and wages cost of distribution per £ of retail sales.

NUMBER OF WORKERS AND WAGES.

Year.	Total.		Classed as Engaged in Production.			
	Workers.	Wages.	Number.	Per Cent of Total.	Wages.	Average Wage.
		£			£	£
1914	103,074	6,319,967	25,988	25·21	1,715,038	65·99
1915	109,449	6,749,725	28,555	26·09	1,821,413	63·79
1916	115,651	7,452,616	27,129	23·46	1,978,572	72·93

Classed as Engaged in Distribution.

Year.	Number.	Per Cent of Total.	Wages.	Average Wage.	Average Sales per Distrib. Employee.	Dist. Wages Cost per £ of Sales.
			£	£	£	s. d.
1914	77,086	74·79	4,604,929	59·74	1,141	1 0½
1915	80,894	73·91	4,928,312	60·92	1,268	0 11½
1916	88,522	76·54	5,474,044	61·84	1,375	0 10¾

PROFIT OR SURPLUS.

The profit or surplus for 1916 before paying share interest was £16,335,079 (as compared with £14,960,086 in 1915), and after paying share interest it was £14,430,452 (as compared with £13,260,965 in 1915). This profit, after paying share interest, represented 30·60 per cent of share capital and 11·86 per cent of retail sales, as compared with 30·74 per cent of share capital and 12·93 per cent of retail sales in 1915.

DISTRIBUTIVE FEDERATIONS.

These societies are district federations formed for the purpose of buying goods wholesale and distributing them. Their activities show very little variation from last year.

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

(EXCLUSIVE OF THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.)

The productive societies shown in the statistics include some which are primarily associations of consumers and others which are primarily, but only

in a few cases exclusively, associations of workers. The trade for the year 1916 shows an increase over that of 1915, due very largely to the higher prices now ruling and to the demand upon some of the boot societies for Army boots. The following tables give the principal points concerning these societies :—

	Number of Societies.	Number of Members.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Trade.	Surplus.	Workers Engaged.	Wages
			£	£	£	£		£
1914	108	36,880	987,613	834,736	3,800,627	276,792	10,725	613,555
1915	103	34,912	842,691	845,427	3,860,052	316,896	10,657	634,921
1916	101	35,142	869,210	902,394	4,461,491	333,842	10,284	732,106

Percentage of trade to trade of retail distributive societies ..	1914, 4.32 %
" " " ..	1915, 3.76 %
" " " ..	1916, 3.67 %
Average wage per worker	1914, £57.21
" "	1915, £59.58
" "	1916, £71.19
Output per worker	1914, £354
"	1915, £362
"	1916, £434
Wages cost of production per £ of sales.....	1914, 3s. 2½d.
" " "	1915, 3s. 3½d.
" " "	1916, 3s. 3½d.

SUPPLY ASSOCIATIONS.

The following are the statistics for the year 1916 and for the two previous years. The explanation of the drop in membership between 1914 and 1915 was explained in the statistics issued last year.

	Number of Members.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Trade.	Surplus.	Workers.	Wages.
		£	£	£	£		£
1914	95,117	380,745	194,265	2,030,245	41,470	2,099	183,528
1915	8,473	370,447	113,504	3,280,360	54,151	1,799	172,167
1916	8,560	370,582	64,657	3,402,308	92,328	1,661	196,866

THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

The statistics of the wholesale societies show that their progress has been in harmony with the general progress that has been taking place in the whole of the movement during the last year. It has been thought desirable this

year to give the statistics separately, as well as jointly, of the three wholesale societies. The statistics do not include the activities of the joint departments controlled by the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, though the products of these joint departments appear in the distributive sales of the wholesale society through which they have been sold. It should be noted in reading the last two columns of each of the following tables, that wholesale trade has been taken at wholesale prices and retail trade at retail prices.

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL, AND TRADE.

Year.	Member-ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.	
					Value.	% of Retail Distrib. Trade in England, Wales, and Ireland.
		£	£	£	£	%
1914 ..	1,193	2,130,959	4,170,058	6,301,017	34,910,813	49.91
1915 ..	1,195	2,284,757	4,356,841	6,641,598	43,101,747	52.18
1916 ..	1,189	2,653,774	4,455,517	7,109,291	52,230,074	53.50

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL, AND TRADE.

Year.	Member-ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.	
					Value.	% of Retail Distrib. Trade in Scotland.
		£	£	£	£	%
1914 ..	266	477,010	3,653,160	4,130,170	9,425,383	52.31
1915 ..	264	502,181	3,962,452	4,464,633	11,418,354	57.22
1916 ..	262	522,454	4,042,183	4,564,637	14,502,410	60.26

IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIP, CAPITAL, AND TRADE.

Year.	Member-ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.	
					Value.	
		£	£	£	£	
1914 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1915 ..	327	12,158	16,067	28,225	375,379	
1916 ..	381	15,819	49,699	65,518	479,877	

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES TOGETHER.

Year.	Member-ship.	Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Total Share and Loan Capital.	Wholesale Distrib. Trade.	
					Value.	† % of Retail Distrib. Trade in United Kingdom.
		£	£	£	£	%
1914* ..	1,459	2,607,969	7,823,218	10,431,187	44,336,196	50.40
1915 ..	1,786	2,799,096	8,335,360	11,134,456	54,895,480	53.53
1916 ..	1,832	3,192,047	8,547,399	11,739,446	67,212,361	55.23

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
		£	£		£	£		£	£
1914 ...	23,190	1,539,354	66.38	19,991	1,209,887	60.52	3,199	329,467	102.99
1915 ...	23,924	1,777,406	74.29	20,432	1,406,127	68.82	3,492	371,279	106.32
1916 ...	23,215	1,819,727	81.91	18,673	1,430,054	76.58	3,542	389,673	110.01

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
		£	£		£	£		£	£
1914	8,877	530,378	59.75	6,134	410,223	66.88	2,743	120,155	43.80
1915	9,103	554,634	60.93	7,215	433,920	60.14	1,888	120,714	63.94
1916	8,307	593,165	71.41	6,867	463,103	67.44	1,440	130,062	90.32

* English and Scottish Wholesale Societies only.

† Wholesale trade at wholesale prices, retail trade at retail prices.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
1914	81	£ 5,400	£ 66·67	..	..	..	81	£ 5,400	£ 66·67
1915	100	6,854	68·54	..	..	..	100	6,854	68·54

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES TOGETHER.

Year.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		Productive.			Distributive.		
		Amount.	Average per Employee.	No. of Workers.	Wages.		No. of Workers.	Wages.	
					Amount.	Average per Employee.		Amount.	Average per Employee.
1914 (English and Scot- tish only)	32,067	£ 2,069,732	£ 64·54	26,125	£ 1,620,110	£ 62·01	5,942	£ 449,622	£ 75·67
1915	33,108	2,337,440	70·60	27,647	1,840,047	66·56	5,461	497,393	91·08
1916	30,622	2,419,746	79·02	25,540	1,893,157	74·13	5,082	526,589	103·62

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

Year.	Value of Productions.	Rate % of Productions to		Capital engaged in Production.	Output per Productive Worker	Wages cost of Production per £ of Production.	Wholesale Sales per Distributive Employee.	Wages cost of Distribution per £ of Wholesale Sales.
		Wholesale Sales.	*Retail Sales in England, Wales, & Ireland.					
1914	£ 9,109,318	% 26·09	% 13·02	£ 3,116,057	456	s. d. 2 7½	£ 10,913	d. 2·27
1915	12,895,914	29·92	15·61	3,591,442	631	2 2½	12,343	2·07
1916	16,367,509	31·34	16·77	4,193,145	877	1 9	14,746	1·79

* Productions taken at factory values, and retail sales at retail prices.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

Year.	Value of Productions.	Rate % of Productions to		Capital engaged in Production.	Output per Productive Worker	Wages cost of Production per £ of Production.	Wholesale Sales per Distributive Employee.	Wages cost of Distribution per £ of Wholesale Sales.
		Wholesale Sales.	* Retail Sales in Scotland.					
	£	%	%	£	£	s. d.	£	d.
1914	2,807,047	29.78	15.58	924,734	458	2 11	3,436	3.06
1915	3,697,821	32.38	18.53	1,078,529	513	2 4½	6,048	2.54
1916	4,708,104	32.46	19.56	1,309,962	686	1 11½	10,071	2.15

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Year.	Value of Productions.	Rate % of Productions to		Capital engaged in Production.	Output per Productive Worker	Wages cost of Production per £ of Production.	Wholesale Sales per Distributive Employee.	Wages cost of Distribution per £ of Wholesale Sales.
		Wholesale Sales.	* Retail Sales in the United Kingdom					
	£	%	%	£	£	s. d.	£	d.
1914	11,916,365	26.88	13.55	4,040,791	456	2 8½	7,461	2.43
1915	16,593,735	30.23	16.18	4,669,971	600	2 2½	10,052	2.17
1916	21,075,613	31.36	18.14	5,503,107	825	1 9½	13,226	1.88

* Productions taken at factory values, and retail sales at retail prices.

Summary for each Section

Showing Statistics for each type of Society in

IRISH

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915—Retail Dist. Socs.	24126	188437	29593	18386	91366	109505	..	58231	24074
1916—Retail Dist. Socs.	26329	216406	39686	19601	121892	110152	8908	70558	29448
Increase	2203	27969	10093	1215	30526	647	8908	12327	5374
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1915—Wholesale Socy. .	327	12158	16067	7500	17304	5095	..	5178	48649
1916—Wholesale Socy. .	381	15819	49699	11000	31223	6036	..	6429	74232
Increase	54	3661	33632	3500	13919	941	..	1251	25583
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

MIDLAND

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915—Retail Dist. Socs.	435144	5155007	712805	308317	1596912	2127111	1205401	1887116	71517
1916—Retail Dist. Socs.	472185	5864702	767015	351105	1958407	2217749	1182286	244255	86700
Increase	37041	709695	54210	42788	361495	90638	..	557139	15183
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	23115	..	..
1915—Productive Socs. .	10566	206788	175061	93335	242154	123096	68120	80273	109641
1916—Productive Socs. .	10756	214611	202079	132176	331965	131738	59202	82804	121433
Increase	190	7823	26118	38841	89811	7742	..	2591	11792
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	8927	..	..
1915—Special Society ..	60	669	..	296	47	..	535	1045	..
1916—Special Society ..	60	916	..	415	36	..	539	812	..
Increase .....	..	247	..	119	..	..	4	..	..
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	233	..

for 1915 and 1916.

each Section during each of the two years.

SECTION.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
								Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	663	147	39479	6917	711306	59779	8105	2556	1265	428	102 4 1
2	722	228	46358	10964	877816	64547	9633	2566	1317	375	109 13 2
	59	81	6879	4047	166510	4768	1528	10	52	..	7 9 1
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53	....
3	81	..	5400	..	375379	3131	600	..	..	..	3 0 0
4	100	..	6854	..	479877	4989	800	..	500	..	3 0 0
	19	..	1454	..	104498	1858	200	..	500	..	....

SECTION.

No of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
								Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	9019	2855	578597	202100	11900454	1423815	205701	7245	13345	10075	2018 13 9
2	10230	2933	630659	216143	13975722	1505540	237712	10288	14193	11594	2175 9 8
	1211	78	52062	14043	2075268	81725	32011	3043	848	1519	156 15 11

3	3	4871	278	251004	1394612	106038	10208	18779	1113	1242	75 1 9
4	15	4541	3684	309210	1552917	116508	10307	23430	1618	1602	75 14 10
	12	..	3406	58206	158305	10470	99	4651	505	360	0 13 1
	..	330	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
5	..	..	210	..	654	228	29	..	..	..	0 10 0
6	..	..	357	..	664	59	39	..	..	..	0 10 0
	..	..	147	..	10	..	10	..	..	..	....
	..	..	..	..	..	169	..	..	..	..	....

NORTHERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915—Retail Dist. Socs.	374535	3798633	581575	293642	1475671	1823141	1146728	2941177	238364
1916—Retail Dist. Socs.	403354	6357489	665932	308949	1831222	1708239	1159019	3340033	280016
Increase	28819	558856	84357	15307	355551	..	12291	398856	41652
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	114902	..	..	..
1915—Productive Socs.	943	47754	82030	4410	21303	73545	..	39686	14642
1916—Productive Socs.	927	47914	87314	4109	21936	72408	..	45768	14491
Increase .....	..	160	5284	..	623	..	..	6082	..
Decrease	16	..	..	301	..	1137	..	..	151
1915—Special Society ..	64	3046	..	3489	..	15	..	6707	..
1916—Nil .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Increase .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Decrease	64	3046	..	3489	..	15	..	6707	..

NORTH-WESTERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915—Retail Dist. Socs.	1269257	18847961	1731815	1091487	4480676	6308286	4567042	8641165	302120
1916—Retail Dist. Socs.	1351308	20259789	1793762	1156745	5407006	5953882	4978645	9570419	352615
Increase	82051	1411828	61947	65258	926330	..	411603	929254	50405
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	354404	..	..	..
1915—Productive Socs.	4980	201859	107729	56205	110093	161469	152	78903	71702
1916—Productive Socs.	4997	213448	118309	63430	155899	176212	146	57591	82562
Increase	17	11589	10580	7225	45806	14743	..	21312	10860
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..
1915—Special Society ..	3	20000	19437	622801	..	25688	78021	568044	11246
1916—Special Society ..	3	20000	23804	736204	..	25030	71155	705203	16464
Increase .....	..	..	4367	113403	..	..	..	137159	5218
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	658	6866	..	..
1915—Dist. Federations.	60	22964	1887	1836	2805	3496	..	22803	7322
1916—Dist. Federations.	60	27260	85	1854	2724	1285	1851	27867	7345
Increase .....	..	4296	..	18	..	..	1851	5064	23
Decrease .....	..	..	1802	..	81	2211	..	..	..
1915—Supply Assoc. ...	345	1860	..	817	1669	112	179	906	2334
1916—Supply Assoc. ...	349	1995	..	1140	1757	101	169	1372	2839
Increase	4	135	..	323	88	..	..	466	496
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	11	10	..	..
1915—Wholesale Society	1195	2284758	4356841	2093583	3857063	2475274	9072	2721767	1709895
1916—Wholesale Society	1189	2659774	4455517	2275078	5135546	2573718	6250	2246065	2349142
Increase .....	..	369016	98676	181495	1278483	98444	..	..	639247
Decrease	6	..	..	..	..	..	2816	475102	..

SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
1	9885	2834	£ 633116	£ 186952	£ 13969702	£ 2198828	£ 248649	£ 607	£ 6222	£ 9131	£ 1760 14 6	s. d.
2	11161	2841	698231	202675	17017284	2544503	277727	1526	6680	7777	1941 3 5	
	1276	7	65115	15723	3047582	345675	29078	919	458	..	180 8 11	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1354	....
3	12	411	1008	21147	270340	13122	1977	..	..	65	5 1 7	
4	5	384	342	23593	332949	7107	2013	..	..	7	6 4 4	
	.. 7	.. 27	.. 666	2446	62609	.. 6015	.. 36	..	..	..	1 2 9	
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	....
5	..	16	..	2716	10460	3811	660	..	..	..	0 10 0	
6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
	..	16	..	2716	10460	3811	660	..	..	..	0 10 0	

SECTION.

[illegible]

SCOTTISH

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915—Retail Dist. Socs.	478420	6608367	1696420	857463	2058623	2523196	557462	5185197	436033
1916—Retail Dist. Socs.	514327	7134290	1836277	903805	2516559	2454152	843432	5535583	502993
Increase	35907	525023	139857	46342	457927	..	285970	350386	66300
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	69044	..	..	..
1915—Productive Socs.	13333	348411	437951	116986	87366	336591	17850	464541	46336
1916—Productive Socs.	13157	354909	451629	126743	121714	327216	15046	489315	52713
Increase .....	..	6558	13678	9757	34348	..	..	24774	6377
Decrease	176	..	..	..	..	9375	2804	..	..
1915—Special Society ..	22	430	2051	..	1046	96	..	1331	..
1916—Special Society ..	22	430	2051	..	1046	96	..	1331	..
Increase .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1915—Wholesale Soc....	264	502181	3962452	885697	1603415	629414	43655	3977353	366618
1916—Wholesale Soc....	262	522454	4042183	896963	1909564	659979	40434	2754159	578677
Increase .....	..	20273	79731	11266	306149	30565	..	..	212059
Decrease	2	..	..	..	..	..	3221	323194	..

SOUTHERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915—Retail Dist. Socs.	440511	4041952	505618	281501	1461506	1832812	557542	1638562	102115
1916—Retail Dist. Socs.	482085	4553273	627357	329106	1742433	1863501	567356	1960824	110045
Increase	41574	511321	31739	47665	280927	30689	9814	322262	7930
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1915—Productive Socs.	4737	33684	39628	6475	17973	43826	1253	12535	21110
1916—Productive Socs.	4935	35041	39798	9170	15763	43313	3970	7812	22476
Increase	198	1357	170	2695	..	..	2717	..	1366
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	2210	513	..	4723	..
1915—Supply Assocs. ..	7823	366347	110132	139165	357607	235658	22147	233771	342736
1916—Supply Assocs. ..	7906	366347	61285	221036	347219	236874	24567	205291	150181
Increase	83	..	..	81871	..	1216	2420	..	..
Decrease .....	..	..	48847	..	10388	..	..	28480	192555
1915—Special Societies ..	333	1561	3263	858	561	3864	..	1431	2191
1916—Special Societies ..	335	1599	4031	1011	371	3874	..	1402	3774
Increase	2	29	768	153	..	10	..	..	1575
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	190	..	..	29	..

SOUTH-WESTERN

YEAR AND TYPE OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fndd.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
1915—Retail Dist. Socs.	125347	1206307	129027	166751	414718	556953	187483	482711	29296
1916—Retail Dist. Socs.	136498	1276955	179078	171928	578221	645466	194512	385703	25880
Increase	11151	70648	50051	5177	163593	88513	7029	..	5584
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97008	..
1915—Productive Socs..	271	1868	1447	87	553	2679	..	125	947
1916—Productive Socs..	280	1962	1261	235	696	3145	..	216	832
Increase	9	94	..	148	143	466	..	91	..
Decrease .....	..	..	186	..	..	..	..	..	115

WESTERN

[illegible]

Statistics of Societies' Trade

IRISH

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Distributive

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. b These particulars are taken this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
IRELAND.									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Armagh.....	430	3259	1408	50	1632	3218	..	805	853
*Ballinagleragh	220	171	127	..	176	183	..	222	..
Ballymena and Harryville..	770	2844	58	116	1592	396	..	2308	354
Belfast.....	16000	166661	16652	10174	74579	87848	8893	46896	611
†Clanwilliam.....	120	616	56	16	960	150	..	184	124
Coalisland.....	459	675	..	104	673	104	..	805	662
Cork (City of).....	136	426	..	150	788	..	..	278	104
Donacloyne.....	141	610	..	92	720	18	..	204	237
Drumaness.....	103	272	..	..	393	14	..	..	60
†Drumreany.....	620	1353	1540	8	1000	2257	..	1878	470
Dublin.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
eDublin Consumers	191	911	..	1	84	95	15	143	23
Dublin University.....	364	1558	513	53	1250	1331	..	303	238
Dundalk.....	79	142	..	17	421	88	..	908	..
†Dungannon.....	960	3671	7888	2770	8508	2681	..	630	6396
dEnnisecorthy.....	634	2748	29	80	1020	79	..	1556	782
Fenniskillen.....	120	215	47	..	305	16	..	172	32
†Foyes.....	67	291	..	528	1012	28	..	601	63
Greenore.....	140	74	296	..	700	20	..	97	694
Gweedore.....	87	362	625	..	180	1037	..	107	306
Inchicore.....	210	116	1589	280	2056	190	..	128	1828
Inniskiel.....	102	369	138	..	430	210	..	397	481
Larne.....	1650	22266	1068	1995	9235	7119	..	8189	4960
Lisburn.....	166	325	218	425	495	550	..	493	92
Lucan.....	98	84	858	..	313	..	..	12	373
Middletown.....	115	12	335	..	577	43	..	50	270
dMoyculien.....	217	578	42	39	289	124	..	314	888
Newtownards.....	165	184	360	..	473	66	..	6	720
Ochilmore.....	426	3414	700	295	1783	777	..	1506	1802
Portadown.....	375	891	41	28	770	253	..	818	381
Queenstown.....	66	246	166	100	368	18	..	225	433
Rosslare Harbour.....	161	187	..	90	133	..	..	702	..
*Shamrock.....	321	307	22	..	469	65	..	154	218
Sligo.....	14	28	..	..	41	20	..	16	23
dSouth County Dublin.....	75	447	..	1527	881	15	..	321	2142
Springfield.....	240	280	5000	663	6919	970	..	517	4142
Tempiercane.....	187	379	10	..	481	78	..	71	103
Warrenpoint.....	80	24	..	..	186	96	..	57	183
dWhealt.....									
District Total.....	26329	216406	39686	19601	121892	110152	8908	70558	29448
Wholesale Society—									
Irish Agricultural.....	381	15819	49699	11000	31223	6036	..	6429	74232
Total for Section	26710	232225	89385	30601	153115	116188	8908	76987	103680

* 1913 Figures. † Not commenced trading. ‡ Six months' trading. d 1914 Figures.

for the Year 1916.

SECTION.

Co-operative Societies in IRELAND, for 1916.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

	No. of employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
1	13	4	£ 710	£ 340	£ 15265	£ 85	£ 131	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
2	..	..	47	..	1551	57	..	..	..	..	9	1 19 6
3	15	..	752	..	21822	1030	121	1 1 1	..	20	..	2 9 1
4	465	75	32553	4728	518336	52178	7800	1 5	2463	1218	272	73 19 2
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	3	..	205	..	7472	295	25	1 4	..	2	..	0 10 5
7	7	3	433	231	6925	264	..	..	..	..	3	1 19 0
8	5	..	200	..	5156	106	18	0 6	..	..	..	..
9	3	..	193	..	4065	593	25	1 6	11	..	1	0 11 0
10	2	..	65	..	3085	100	4	0 9	..	..	..	0 10 5
11	20	6	1375	535	18945	£1519	..	..	..	..	..	2 19 5
12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 0 0
13	2	..	98	..	1253	£198	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
14	12	..	436	..	7688	163	63	0 6	..	..	2	2 6 10
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	..	..	138	..	4445	38	..	..	..	..	..	..
17	22	28	1032	606	23226	544	183	0 3	14	..	17	..
18	10	..	458	..	13634	714	81	1 3	22	..	10	1 10 0
19	1	..	18	..	980	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 12 8
20	2	..	185	..	3912	311	14	1 6 1	12	..	3	0 6 0
21	3	..	160	..	5832	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	4	..	216	..	5154	..	4	..	..	..	..	0 12 6
23	8	..	288	..	10000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24	3	..	253	..	6407	..	4	..	..	..	..	0 10 5
25	48	10	2785	215	73087	4411	932	1 5	..	56	32	7 11 0
26	6	..	205	..	6399	471	15	1 4	9	..	3	0 17 6
27	3	..	114	..	3362	£212	..	..	1	..	1	0 10 3
28	3	..	85	..	2459	64	..	..	..	..	..	..
29	4	..	238	..	4289	51	20	..	..	..	2	1 6 0
30	2	2	109	36	3231	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 5
31	11	..	637	..	18968	1099	139	1 4	32	18	8	2 0 5
32	10	..	522	..	10136	295	40	1 0	2	2	2	1 17 1
33	4	..	113	..	9430	153	10	1 0	..	..	6	0 6 3
34	..	..	109	..	5933	500	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	3	..	176	..	3518	56	1	0 6	..	..	4	1 0 0
36	1	..	2	..	538	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37	3	..	187	..	23049	256	..	..	..	..	..	..
38	20	100	1042	4223	34731	1021	..	1 6	..	..	..	..
39	3	..	204	..	4681	£41	3	..	..	..	..	0 19 6
40	1	..	10	..	652	41	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 4
41	722	228	46358	10964	877316	64547	9633	..	2566	1317	375	109 13 2
	100	..	6854	..	479877	4989	800	..	..	500	..	3 0 0
	822	228	53212	10964	1357693	69536	10433	..	2566	1817	375	112 13 2

MIDLAND

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
RUTLAND, SALOP, STAFFORD, WARWICK, and Part of WORCESTER,

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 1.—NORTHAMPTON & EARLS BARTON DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brafield	291	4904	2	243	703	1130	..	3722	84
Brington	150	597	..	150	425	30	..	723	..
*Brixworth	268	1778	1112	121	930	935	..	1768	..
Cogenhoe Self-Help	124	939	..	118	317	5	..	837	..
Daventry	1156	15482	3021	430	6700	3936	5502	4207	401
Denton	91	326	..	72	223	100	..	121	14
Earls Barton	920	18086	1322	1065	3418	8191	3928	6358	92
East Haddon	57	153	..	122	206	..	..	136	9
Ecton	129	576	..	217	365	3	..	592	25
Hackleton	178	2266	2	233	431	447	278	1544	42
Harleston	149	461	24	50	420	51	..	582	..
Harpole	643	7463	4725	229	3097	2915	2106	4720	340
I.L.P. Boot	15	18	..	387	751	53	..	285	113
Long Buckby	1037	22719	1116	1121	4763	8356	8238	5604	..
Moulton	352	2795	436	1009	1209	1187	1293	733	137
Northampton	7751	54188	33889	6615	30629	33207	7282	35539	73
Pitsford	67	224	..	47	133	..	..	204	..
West Haddon	158	1041	..	103	445	485	..	454	34
Yardley Hastings	244	2139	535	295	1015	1033	648	621	6
District Total	13780	136245	46184	12627	56180	62064	29275	68750	1370
No. 2.—WELLINGBOROUGH AND KETTERING DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Burton Latimer	914	20214	1218	1018	2938	3762	8250	9951	20
Desborough	1747	59170	53024	2813	16137	26289	70662	5881	3065
Finedon	815	12450	2205	1477	2714	3146	2662	9126	76
Higham Ferrers	479	5363	915	272	2957	2042	..	3085	..
Irchester	407	6010	2571	271	3069	4338	1510	714	..
Irthlingborough	620	5445	945	270	2626	3285	..	2216	217
Kettering	8372	259341	11173	7945	30066	34510	115023	109048	329
Market Harborough	3094	28134	3217	1121	9720	17163	..	12579	509
Raunds Distributive	1367	22186	3013	1040	10591	7653	3392	7815	116
Ringstead Distributive	189	1017	292	102	646	627	..	508	68
Rothwell	1034	18136	3510	500	3080	6214	3622	11728	209
Rushden	2461	29893	7868	1428	11282	11733	7456	13928	329
Thrapston	507	3569	1208	579	1890	2379	..	1846	124
Walgrave Industrial	157	1004	456	142	407	395	..	1031	..
Wellingborough Midland	3356	51220	11781	5640	9830	9593	8153	49714	820
Wollaston	707	18543	3591	435	2882	2669	5008	14142	..
Retail Societies Total	26226	532695	106987	25953	110805	135798	225738	253312	5882

SECTION.

CAMBRIDGE, DERBY, LEICESTER, LINCOLN, NORTHAMPTON, NOTTINGHAM, for 1916, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	2	1	205	63	7261	855	157	1 9½	..	3	....
2	2	1	118	26	5121	631	25	2 4	..	..	....
3	..	..	327	..	6541	641	80	..	..	..	....
4	1	..	72	..	2826	327	28	2 6½	..	2	0 12 3
5	28	4	1673	262	36694	3284	615	1 6	43	8	5 4 4
6	1	..	74	..	1647	98	12	1 10	..	..	0 9 2
7	10	11	887	347	24504	2600	791	1 10	..	4	4 15 3
8	1	..	46	..	1734	144	7	2 3	..	..	....
9	1	1	104	47	3359	297	24	1 11	..	..	....
10	1	1	181	48	5264	625	71	2 9	..	2	0 18 3
11	3	..	228	..	4198	369	20	2 6	..	..	0 15 4
12	13	12	955	192	21494	1805	278	1 5½	..	11	3 3 6
13	3	..	286	..	4177	396	..	..	252	..	0 5 0
14	19	11	1431	479	32843	4285	799	1 11½	..	45	5 4 5
15	2	2	294	88	9806	670	128	1 8½	..	2	1 14 9
16	119	26	7928	2304	178361	18832	2174	1 10	..	187	35 4 6
17	1	..	63	..	1660	161	11	2 0	..	..	0 6 7
18	3	..	175	..	3570	305	48	1 6	..	1	0 17 6
19	3	2	217	47	5753	629	102	2 0	..	2	1 5 5
213		72	15264	3903	356813	36954	5370	..	43	496	163 60 16 3
1	15	5	1008	288	26342	3246	707	2 2	..	5	4 6 10
2	31	119	2037	8842	63227	6831	2192	2 0	..	48	8 17 0
3	12	5	879	303	24848	2487	525	2 0	..	..	4 1 6
4	7	2	417	171	12438	1771	210	2 4	55	11	2 8 4
5	3	4	485	152	20116	1892	237	1 10	..	7	2 2 0
6	13	5	1041	232	21532	2153	257	1 10	..	4	3 3 9
7	102	35	8536	2886	238822	33001	9282	2 0	700	240	44 1 3
8	58	15	3359	922	71729	8358	1182	2 0	..	109	40 15 3 5
9	20	21	1683	1140	41002	4270	799	1 7	..	20	73 6 7 0
10	1	1	171	52	5583	512	45	2 0	..	..	12 0 19 4
11	14	6	1066	255	26025	3021	658	2 0	..	..	35 5 3 2
12	45	17	3526	926	73212	8532	1140	2 0	..	68	96 12 14 9
13	8	2	480	140	12519	1395	152	2 0	..	5	2 10 1 1
14	2	2	135	98	5251	533	46	2 0½	..	..	4
15	66	23	4033	1174	117596	14221	1945	2 0	..	134	114 16 8 0
16	12	9	812	312	23651	2979	725	2 0	..	19	23 3 9 4
408		271	30268	17893	783893	95202	20102	..	755	659	956 131 15 9

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
WELLINGBOROUGH AND KET- TERING DISTRICT—Con. Productive Societies:—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
hAvalon (Rothwell Boot and Shoe)	222	11347	485	2840	7340	4440	..	7218	.. 17
Crompton Boot Manufac. (Deshborough)	273	4589	2877	6335	6086	3093	275	3252	1633 18
Finedon Boot and Shoe ..	28	4993	753	4600	6294	60	..	2695	3990 19
Higham Ferrers Boot & Shoe	270	6321	3472	3815	8327	3007	..	768	3443 20
Kettering Boot and Shoe ..	651	10046	13561	7116	24251	3294	..	1654	6609 21
„ Clothing	1415	24915	25815	19898	63157	17700	299	5393	12554 22
„ Corset M'facturers ..	387	13321	..	2338	14811	3100	300	550	2901 23
„ Union Boot & Shoe ..	276	2705	3683	814	5245	1120	..	765	2808 24
Northamptonshire Produc- tive (Wollaston)	199	3125	5288	4179	8461	1750	..	2597	3870 25
Pioneer Boot (North'mp'n)	73	808	500	1000	2092	1057	..	62	.. 26
Ringstead Unity	26	3515	..	2033	6036	543	..	1894	1347 27
St. Crispin Produco. (Raunds)	60	6338	5909	7992	9849	1050	..	12474	5322 28
Wellingboro' Ideal Cloth'rs	1224	23659	9700	26761	40919	23122	..	11876	14209 29
„ Midland Boot	236	6123	2470	3352	12629	1312	..	3085	6250 30
Produc. Societies Total	5340	121805	74513	93073	215497	64648	874	54283	64936
District Total	31566	654500	181500	118126	326302	200446	226612	307595	70818
No. 3.—LEICESTER DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	648	1817	1089	203	1955	1571	..	207	242 1
Barrow-on-Soar	220	724	57	..	789	40	..	235	39 2
Barwell	1775	24506	2548	1134	7395	6136	7844	12419	.. 3
Broughton Astley	146	1163	109	71	723	489	163	147	.. 4
Burbage	688	7020	572	380	3823	3919	149	2299	114 5
Coalville	5875	66052	24338	6664	33173	29108	2784	46381	1227 6
Cosby	192	1727	1212	200	982	1516	..	1035	.. 7
Croft	134	782	425	59	764	23	..	620	98 8
Enderby	1045	18023	2956	2231	6028	6668	4838	8150	392 9
Fleckney	431	2053	600	288	1731	772	600	400	.. 10
Glenfield	243	3247	1359	210	1129	966	2136	1023	.. 11
Great Glen	105	441	696	50	376	974	..	71	.. 12
Great Wigston	2002	45983	3283	2624	7841	17896	14279	15767	.. 13
Groby	145	2112	50	323	691	..	..	2067	.. 14
Hathern	273	5114	1913	127	1856	1568	3176	1218	.. 15
Hinckley	3415	68328	3699	3106	6191	4440	51398	24722	.. 16
Huncote	162	3052	413	227	676	2256	299	691	.. 17
Kirby Muxloe	135	1099	222	55	564	605	..	540	.. 18
Leicester	27316	356945	60738	12616	82290	177073	51724	153430	.. 19
Loughborough Industrial ..	518	1230	1531	35	1300	352	953	587	215 20
„ Wkg. Men's	429	1306	1176	..	1357	1242	..	682	.. 21
Markfield	177	1114	103	206	577	346	254	471	66 22
Melton Mowbray	1554	8405	3293	1089	6089	6953	742	1508	380 23
Mount Sorrel	445	3366	..	576	2585	1189	..	948	120 24
Oadby	332	3902	473	123	552	1076	..	3171	.. 25
*Quorndon	203	866	167	49	580	..	..	681	69 26
Ratby	236	550	1425	173	831	1255	..	188	344 27
Rothley	252	931	..	145	1106	187	..	227	107 28
Sapcote	129	438	410	..	293	533	..	258	.. 29
Shepshed	1242	32286	3309	343	5926	7770	7494	16907	615 30
Stoney Stanton (Hinckley)	302	2548	554	128	1409	1372	..	871	.. 31
Whetstone	303	3365	..	148	1331	62	1002	1636	.. 32
Retail Societies Total	51072	670495	118720	33583	183513	273857	149835	299557	4028

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divid- end per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.	Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
17	..	..	20602	143814	7004	216	..	..	..	..	1 10 0
18	..	99	6669	40460	953	215	..	..	30	27	2 0 0
19	..	98	6733	51562	5102	247	..	756	..	39	1 0 0
20	..	90	7306	42675	1614	300	0 4	327	5	16	1 12 0
21	..	202	17152	97915	6355	497	0 9	1664	117	81	6 0 0
22	12	945	3360	46120	158588	19162	1217	1 0	4113	250	8 10 0
23	..	230	..	11851	47523	3300	540	0 6	945	100	87 3 0 0
24	..	64	..	4635	29761	1566	61	..	..	15	73 2 4 10
25	..	78	..	8019	44273	2574	150	0 3	383	11	17 1 10 0
26	..	20	..	1451	6475	141	40	..	..	..	1 0 12 6
27	..	80	..	5735	42359	816	150	..	34	..	6 0 5 0
28	..	140	..	11550	91825	11804	305	..	4250	..	144 2 2 0
29	..	831	..	42061	189423	18530	1156	1 0	3856	425	71 6 8 6
30	..	128	..	10623	67054	7043	298	0 9	730	51	143 1 5 0
	12	3005	3360	200507	1044707	85973	5392	..	17058	1004	1088 37 19 10
	420	3276	33628	218400	1828600	181175	25494	..	17813	1663	2044 169 15 7
1	10	3	607	365	15976	981	82	1 41	..	13	1 3 3 6
2	2	..	207	..	4567	367	..	1 6	..	..	1 1 0 2
3	29	5	1859	547	55578	7249	879	2 3	..	88	29 7 4 3
4	3	..	143	..	2939	339	53	2 0	..	..	1 0 14 1
5	13	6	709	224	19655	2497	314	2 104	..	..	17 2 16 2
6	179	57	9041	4231	268737	36121	3019	2 4	..	..	109 27 14 8
7	3	..	263	..	6718	827	79	2 5	..	..	3 1 0 0
8	1	1	206	78	4990	404	34	1 82	..	..	1 0 13 9
9	18	8	1237	498	36200	4079	648	2 02	119	..	35 5 4 2
10	6	2	443	139	12503	1231	86	2 21	..	..	7 2 5 10
11	2	3	219	113	5927	597	132	2 0	..	..	4 1 4 0
12	2	1	127	117	3392	223	21	1 10	..	..	1
13	29	18	2403	1844	70622	7843	1795	2 0	..	68	46 9 15 0
14	2	1	212	92	5380	704	96	2 4	..	..	5 0 15 10
15	4	4	330	276	10564	943	197	1 10	..	..	8 1 6 9
16	44	10	3557	975	95223	15279	2499	2 10	..	10	50 16 16 6
17	2	..	189	..	4347	547	115	2 0	..	11	.. 0 15 10
18	3	..	175	..	3841	343	51	1 6	..	..	1 0 13 4
19	640	160	40023	11814	831670	88000	13580	1 83	2087	854	196 130 4 6
20	4	1	290	123	6823	599	40	1 7	..	7	5 2 15 6
21	..	..	484	..	10441	1281	51	..	..	..	.. .....
22	5	..	395	..	6646	581	54	1 9	..	..	.. 0 17 8
23	23	12	1431	388	28972	2999	358	1 8	..	..	12 7 16 1
24	6	2	496	301	17055	1919	168	2 0	..	..	12 2 4 10
25	3	3	256	251	9963	1197	149	2 2	..	..	3 1 12 6
26	3	..	194	..	4864	513	45	2 0	..	..	2
27	2	2	256	145	7036	633	24	1 9	..	..	.. 1 4 2
28	4	2	316	134	8420	918	43	2 24	..	..	.. 1
29	2	..	78	..	1884	120	16	1 3	..	..	.. 1
30	24	8	1731	662	49667	5327	1263	2 0	..	105	.. 6 7 8
31	5	2	347	190	8512	667	111	1 7	..	..	.. 1 9 0
32	3	..	401	..	11813	1315	120	2 1	..	..	.. 4
	1076	311	68625	23507	1630925	186643	26122	..	2206	1156	561 237 15 3

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
LEICESTER DISTRICT—Con.									
Productive Societies:—									
Excelsior Boot and Shoe (Sileby)	110	2908	3584	2558	9950	2005	..	544	3458
aGlenfield Boot and Shoe ..	249	3273	3740	1341	2608	1788	..	2410	1958
Leicester Anchor B. & Shoe ..	558	5582	7511	2518	15390	6115	..	842	3547
" Boot and Shoe ..	988	12387	12791	8225	17116	7871	..	5885	5339
" Carriage Build'rs ..	84	1146	1561	824	3438	766	..	112	832
" Printing	390	8502	8947	1315	6160	10027	..	1882	5092
" Self Help Boot & S. ..	171	2449	2194	1962	6032	2768	..	97	2024
Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)	225	3221	1016	659	2858	891	..	827	7747
Sperope Boot and Shoe (Barwell)	234	3487	7631	1892	8827	3085	..	204	3417
Wigston Hosiers	410	11426	2455	2224	10693	5936	..	2703	3740
Produc. Societies Total	3419	54381	51430	23518	83072	41252	..	15486	37454
District Total	54491	72 1876	170150	57101	266585	319609	149835	315043	41482
No. 4—COVENTRY DISTRICT—Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Atherstone	797	8566	1640	707	3271	4211	1367	2959	270
*Blue Lias (Stockton)	137	321	1	..	360	..	..	240	..
*Broadwell New	30	85	..	..	49	4	..	35	..
†Coventry Perseverance	22559	319426	3694	23079	81468	69251	8231	136478	1032
*Eathorpe and Marton	185	841	..	450	506	..	..	1198	..
Harbury	339	3196	125	152	1698	778	515	783	..
Lockhurst Lane	2882	31373	2885	2528	15673	13616	12364	3926	254
Long Itchington	197	1600	6	50	1643	91	..	522	196
Nuneaton	7721	60364	16767	6497	30289	33952	10238	18546	1120
aPailton	35	255	..	..	488	259	..	1160	136
*Paradise (Foleshill)	73	187	480	29	296	149	..	227	..
Rugby	7511	86141	8746	4687	37262	37873	13071	23890	747
*Southam	268	1095	332	170	654	840	..	250	76
Stoneleigh	110	284	..	..	298	60	..	90	..
Retail Societies Total	42844	513734	34676	38349	173955	161087	125786	190304	3831
Productive Societies:—									
Coventry Andrews Watch Manufacturing	11	285	..	..	136	..	..	78	41
Coventry Builders	12	134	668	..	82	498	..	28	23
Coventry Licensed Trade Supply	146	1536	886	1490	561	2400	..	1506	135
Coventry Watch Manufacturing	51	1201	190	17	614	400	..	281	77
Produc. Societies Total	220	3156	1714	1417	1393	3298	..	1893	276
District Total	43064	516890	36420	39766	175348	164385	125786	192197	4107
No. 5—BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT—Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Alcester	4386	36422	4352	2212	20118	16629	568	11204	880
Bidford	759	9975	86	688	3315	1821	2360	4704	630
Birmingham Industrial ..	42701	350300	23633	24625	143500	198691	19328	118461	2964
*Church Lench	62	210	100	114	44	..	..	229	..
Dudley	6741	10656	2735	3064	11520	8896	..	3061	831

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonos on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
33	..	99	..	7513	34133	2820	140	0 6	1010	118	1	0 12 0
34	..	83	..	5378	21141	845	163	0 3	231	30	23	2 1 6
35	..	159	..	12290	41854	2355	338	..	..	50	73	4 10 0
36	..	237	..	18843	78612	5575	629	0 5	1115	66	140	8 0 0
37	..	27	..	3340	9299	497	59	..	..	..	4	0 12 0
38	..	105	..	7861	27782	3144	415	0 6	487	70	27	2 8 0
39	..	68	..	5568	25333	1137	124	0 3½	213	6	3	1 10 0
40	..	15	..	1044	49503	1108	163	0 4	69	30	49	1 1 0
41	..	82	..	6048	30917	2416	504	0 6	505	35	49	1 13 6
42	..	70	..	4657	44620	2274	543	0 3	299	45	11	1 15 0
	..	945	..	72542	363194	22171	3078	..	3929	450	380	24 3 0
	1076	1256	68625	96049	1994119	108814	29200	..	6135	1606	941	261 18 3
1	12	7	923	522	28045	2838	379	1 10½	..	..	11	4 3 5
2	..	..	133	..	2817	235	12	1 6	..	..	..	0 12 6
3	1	..	..	..	499	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	445	128	20588	7529	482676	74221	8868	2 5	..	1090	80	114 6 8
5	..	..	190	..	3893	493	19	..	..	..	..	..
6	6	4	421	97	10520	888	143	1 6	..	..	4	1 14 0
7	50	10	3052	1385	83690	12719	1150	2 6	..	239	..	13 11 2
8	3	2	222	65	6410	562	76	1 7	..	..	..	..
9	164	34	10266	4239	239658	27080	2784	1 11½	..	364	115	37 11 0
10	2	1	77	91	2403	110	12	2 0	..	..	..	..
11	..	..	124	..	3179	420	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	186	59	12728	4767	263574	27827	3517	1 11	..	268	114	37 0 0
13	5	3	337	85	6110	587	46	2 0	..	..	6	..
14	2	1	172	27	4387	226	10	1 1	..	..	..	..
	876	249	49233	18807	1137861	148206	17016	..	..	1961	330	208 18 9
15	..	2	..	111	286	2	..	..	..	..	1	0 5 0
16	..	1	..	65	113	£10	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
17	3	8	324	486	4604	662	76	..	20	..	2	1 10 0
18	..	11	..	353	675	£21	..	..	..	..	1	0 12 0
	3	22	324	10.5	5678	664	76	..	20	..	4	2 12 0
	879	271	49557	19822	1143539	148870	17092	..	20	1961	334	211 10 9
1	118	16	7964	1335	149384	11325	1381	1 5½	..	..	111	20 8 0
2	12	6	753	186	19713	1715	370	1 7	..	..	20	3 10 11
3	915	99	61249	9986	1046670	110127	14800	1 9½	1572	1177	402	161 17 4
4	..	..	110	..	1532	101	10	..	..	..	..	..
5	78	13	3765	1104	91513	9715	362	2 0	..	70	17	15 0 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT—Con.									
Fenny Compton	265	1812	8	58	1012	536	..	830	262
Halesowen and Hasbury ..	1900	17422	9585	558	9403	17663	68	3591	1380
Highley	193	2621	..	263	1264	1117	..	755	138
Kidderminster	3433	52425	1786	3964	16056	10666	6478	33593	298
Soho (Smethwick)	8712	54028	5306	5199	36421	31472	..	14454	999
Stratford-on-Avon	786	2596	609	420	1541	2462	..	636	287
Ten Acres and Stirchley (Birmingham)	10912	137044	10853	10742	48898	66640	4074	66958	997
Warwick	440	1430	746	73	1150	1049	..	689	380
Worcester	6350	47137	4998	4435	19789	23660	2362	18554	721
Retail Societies Total	87640	724138	64697	56401	314101	381346	35238	277119	10767
Special Society — Planet Mutual Insurance.	60	916	..	415	36	..	539	812	..
Productive Societies:—									
Alcester Needle Makers ..	173	1832	1236	..	1327	513	..	92	476
Birmingham Printers	190	8931	1573	538	943	7392	..	1788	2445
Midland Woodworkers.....	47	248	136	..	155	89	..	62	208
Produc. Societies Total	410	11011	2945	538	2425	7904	..	1942	3129
District Total	88110	736065	67642	57354	316562	389340	35777	279873	13896
No. 6—STAFFORD DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bridgnorth	310	1236	1185	260	934	1290	488	202	114
Burton-on-Trent	10296	115655	9011	6068	37269	45664	3469	64478	5
Cannock	4250	41639	5080	1816	13146	12913	719	23304	2456
Hollington	103	930	..	142	189	111	330	507	3
Mayfield	241	1622	41	362	951	138	..	1283	5
Rugeley	1674	16405	1301	1710	7858	5724	500	6981	700
Stafford	2962	27007	681	2733	11534	13859	752	8796	866
Stone	1010	11953	550	975	4391	6984	1400	1779	857
Tamworth	5482	70639	4555	4459	20057	26172	2365	42170	39
Tipton	1051	6746	..	1190	4943	2136	..	3025	597
Walsall	13461	114733	8524	5336	36032	50970	4513	54310	650
Wednesbury (New)	1440	9643	2015	213	7672	3815	668	1560	810
Wheaton Aston	76	502	..	478	326	350	..	569	12
Wolverhampton	6251	49522	1240	1021	19709	15276	3476	17888	1826
† Retail Societies Total	48607	468232	34183	26763	165011	185402	18689	226942	8923
Productive Society:— Walsall Locks & Cart Gear	220	8200	3398	6747	10796	5359	333	573	8803
District Total	48827	476441	37581	33510	175807	190761	19022	227515	17726

* 1913 Figures.

† The Bourton, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Oakengates, Prees, Shrewsbury, Tibberton, and Whitechurch societies were formerly in this district, but have been transferred to District No. 10.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
6	5	3	203	60	7510	423	70	1 04	..	..	8	1 7 1
7	39	10	1871	659	42304	4341	818	1 94	..	32	12	..	
8	4	2	231	108	7661	1002	112	2 0	..	..	11	1 1 0
9	60	22	3718	1402	105967	13518	2040	2 2	..	20	61	17 6 8	
10	157	22	11295	2505	213883	24176	2253	1 104	527	317	30	34 7 6	
11	7	5	495	340	14912	1072	113	1 6	..	..	..	....
12	239	32	17324	3175	343885	38185	5830	1 10	..	821	177	49 16 0	
13	7	3	420	160	8620	465	64	1 0	..	2	..	2 5 2	
14	145	30	6837	2315	154852	12844	1718	1 44	275	305	68	27 15 4	
	1786	263	116235	23335	2208406	229009	29941	..	2374	2744	917	334 15 0	
15	..	..	357	..	664	59	39	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
16	..	11	..	489	3368	138	..	0 3	122	20	..	1 10 0	
17	..	63	..	4726	11849	818	425	..	..	..	15	1 5 0
18	..	6	..	486	1232	91	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
	..	80	..	5701	16449	1037	425	..	122	20	15	3 0 0	
	1786	343	116592	29036	2225519	230105	30405	..	2496	2764	932	338 5 0	
1	6	2	305	132	6628	546	58	1 6	..	..	5	1 14 0
2	256	65	17254	5180	356009	36777	5468	1 84	400	402	226	52 6 8	
3	78	22	5000	1578	134404	13025	1880	1 9	..	40	23	20 2 0	
4	1	..	96	..	2005	188	45	2 0	..	2	..	0 10 9	
5	14	1	375	77	8908	1068	72	2 14	36	25	..	1 5 3	
6	38	9	2046	611	48295	5064	695	1 104	..	35	35	7 14 0	
7	41	12	3618	1128	66930	8095	1179	2 0	..	65	40	14 3 8	
8	17	4	985	668	25133	2924	542	2 0	..	23	8	....
9	123	39	8664	3312	173906	18340	3140	1 94	204	197	52	27 19 2	
10	17	3	903	271	29656	3772	325	2 0	..	..	8	5 4 2
11	259	40	16118	3147	284394	33026	4831	1 10	597	200	171	59 17 6	
12	4	..	215	..	25064	2460	425	1 84	..	..	9	6 6 0
13	1	..	87	..	2160	200	12	3 0	2	..	..	....
14	124	27	7252	2725	147390	13497	1785	1 54	169	120	48	26 3 0	
	979	224	62918	18829	1310852	138982	20457	..	1408	1074	625	223 0 2	
15	..	337	..	20144	50974	5124	589	..	1900	75	50	1 10 0	
	979	561	62918	38973	1361826	144106	21046	..	3308	1149	675	224 16 2	

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Property.	All other Investments.		
No. 7—DERBY DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bolsover	1767	19869	2496	151	12465	10660	..	3680	1583	1
Brassington	62	92	1	2	127	24	..	144	73	2
Codnor Park and Ironville	922	22455	2467	486	5583	1598	4684	14809	805	3
Derby	31277	404807	8332	20906	107233	175452	101262	102658	6838	4
Ilkeston	5331	57853	3826	2558	28922	24265	5386	14912	1143	5
Langley Mill and Aldercar	6002	105979	15714	3087	38207	46084	28195	25618	1833	6
aLea and Holloway	428	2635	1434	35	979	518	1600	925	360	7
Long Eaton	10843	188536	25050	7200	68955	71904	44549	63130	1580	8
aMilford (Hopping Hill)	353	1834	10	..	1099	201	..	705	172	9
Pinxton	932	30257	..	900	6881	3865	8452	13350	698	10
Ripley	12182	294870	6840	16891	77558	69819	43759	156312	125	11
Tibshelf	1397	20562	1665	1637	8754	4812	1230	11189	1229	12
aWirksworth	538	2578	..	759	1633	510	244	1711	170	13
Retail Societies Total	72124	1152327	67835	54612	358396	409712	239421	409143	16609	
Productive Societies:—										
Derby Printers	73	1156	1859	734	394	2886	..	466	216	14
Long Eaton Printers	27	526	..	81	245	127	..	203	209	15
Produc. Societies Total	100	1682	1859	815	639	3013	..	669	425	
District Total	72224	1154009	69694	55427	359035	412725	239421	409812	17034	
No. 8—NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT										
Retail Distrib. Societies -										
Annesley Colliery	860	7893	..	880	4579	100	..	6564	307	1
Annesley Woodhouse	490	11608	1176	598	4500	903	2997	6954	15	2
Bulwell	2392	31742	7756	1148	12294	10015	5517	17475	..	3
† Calverton	221	2063	71	125	907	731	..	774	41	4
Cinder Hill	2449	24621	5136	2740	13588	9000	1887	11848	230	5
Hucknall Torkard	4185	131615	19961	5944	16663	10971	30858	108994	37	6
aKeyworth	246	1312	316	20	590	701	..	286	355	7
Kirkby-in-Ashfield	2617	48607	3192	826	22583	14331	5820	13428	1339	8
Langwith	665	9318	699	1143	6315	1024	..	5815	554	9
Lowdham	407	3908	127	361	1149	2099	348	1009	238	10
Mansfield and Sutton	12130	210921	9316	9311	70429	38638	54480	88840	1293	11
Netherfield	2808	23853	1635	613	16286	9930	2909	2392	1934	12
Nottingham	16874	206657	4206	12172	67860	103013	7327	76557	4447	13
Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	1601	22468	5532	2489	10599	7765	1722	13068	374	14
* Pleasley Works	44	44	..	79	235	9	..	287	..	15
Radcliffe-on-Trent	304	2594	2297	..	1469	2313	1188	209	551	16
Ruddington	616	13067	1870	689	3304	4481	5969	2845	179	17
Selston	732	17064	2867	444	6400	5373	2369	7680	317	18
Southwell	508	3451	658	95	2743	1586	..	695	79	19
Stanton Hill	1606	22106	4906	1727	8570	5750	7708	9144	1194	20
Stapleford and Sandiacre	2578	39230	3858	1324	11471	13643	9724	15849	876	21
Warsop Vale	274	4512	..	310	1946	600	2039	940	..	22
aWoodborough	84	481	394	237	484	396	267	229	..	23
Retail Societies Total	54691	839135	75973	43275	284904	243462	143129	391782	13864	
Productive Societies:—										
Codnor Park and Selston Baking	2	800	..	55	120	556	..	306	..	24
Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers	314	7449	10541	1944	17310	4581	..	1452	5975	25
Nottingham Printers	110	751	370	246	246	411	..	624	159	26
Produc. Societies Total	426	9000	10911	2245	17676	5548	..	2382	6134	
District Total	55117	848135	86884	45520	302640	249010	143129	391164	19908	

* 1913 Figures.

† 1914 Figures.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s d.
1	43	5	2645	227	65023	7608	926	1 11	..	..	50	7 16 4
2	4	..	84	..	1293	28	3	1 0	..	..	..	0 6 0
3	27	6	1460	258	42773	4941	990	1 11	..	18	35	4 13 4
4	789	323	55242	22773	1077358	139879	14880	2 21	..	1130	5351	158 6 0
5	134	30	7706	2304	208663	23435	2222	1 11	..	306	182	25 15 2
6	195	56	12537	5234	240939	26312	4508	1 10	465	512	58	30 4 5
7	4	..	234	..	5714	587	111	1 6	8	..	4	2 5 9
8	364	74	16223	6711	425098	55190	7608	2 11	708	515	..	53 0 6
9	7	..	412	..	10891	1101	85	2 0	..	..	..	1 16 9
10	25	..	1254	..	39906	7166	1345	2 9	..	..	11	4 11 8
11	255	53	15208	3946	455488	72478	13075	2 6	..	707	157	59 2 2
12	41	7	2735	535	69418	9292	940	2 5	..	102	10	7 3 6
13	9	1	445	74	12581	1919	108	2 4	..	..	12	2 16 3
	1897	555	116185	42062	2656045	349936	46801	..	1181	3290	5870	357 17 10
14	..	10	..	740	2731	261	56	0 10	31	7	10	0 15 0
15	..	5	..	474	1016	130	26	0 10	35	5	3	0 5 0
	..	15	..	1214	3747	391	82	..	66	12	13	1 0 0
	1897	570	116185	43276	2659792	350327	46883	..	1247	3302	5883	358 17 10
1	15	1	1081	74	45013	7283	381	3 04	..	..	13	4 7 4
2	11	1	729	72	24664	2951	514	2 4	27	54	10	2 4 1
3	61	13	3688	1116	101979	11527	1150	2 0	..	..	40	10 19 4
4	2	..	166	..	4951	710	97	..	..	..	..	..
5	57	18	3606	1472	81728	10204	965	2 54	..	89	49	11 12 3
6	82	45	5809	3558	145731	18903	4550	2 24	..	285	132	20 3 0
7	5	2	336	100	6283	382	62	1 0	..	..	1	1 5 0
8	67	18	5093	1344	118115	12571	2353	1 94	137	127	47	13 2 4
9	14	..	1326	..	34285	5570	410	3 0	..	..	20	3 4 7
10	6	2	308	150	8693	636	153	1 5	..	..	6	2 2 2
11	240	54	16847	3233	443761	47969	9555	1 94	..	250	93	55 14 8
12	73	16	3570	1194	90961	7926	1954	1 7	..	..	18	13 5 0
13	337	191	18830	11900	443296	56359	9359	1 10	1994	115	630	79 4 0
14	35	8	2425	232	63007	8452	955	2 34	..	25	2	7 5 0
15	..	..	59	..	1806	243	3	..	..	..	..	..
16	4	2	326	142	5918	286	..	..	..	..	1	1 5 2
17	12	4	837	343	22323	2331	588	1 8	..	..	13	3 2 3
18	21	3	1356	239	31108	3375	749	2 0	..	35	17	3 12 6
19	12	3	584	239	11658	779	154	0 104	..	5	3	2 9 4
20	36	5	2661	106	66659	7943	974	2 0	..	54	41	8 3 6
21	70	16	3428	1625	96680	10603	1765	1 10	..	100	69	12 14 5
22	7	..	514	..	14340	2065	230	2 6	18	31	5	1 5 1
23	2	..	97	..	1628	201	18	2 0	..	..	..	....
	1169	402	73736	27229	1864587	219449	36036	..	2116	1210	1210	257 1 0
24	..	5	..	339	3508	131	40	0 4	..	..	..	0 5 0
25	..	116	..	6305	61649	416	318	0 24	331	55	52	1 5 0
26	..	8	..	677	1550	100	37	0 3	4	2	..	0 15 0
	..	129	..	7321	66707	647	395	..	335	57	52	2 5 0
	1169	531	73736	34550	1931294	220096	36434	..	2451	1267	1262	259 6 0

NAME OF SOCIETY	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 9—LINCOLN DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Boston	2345	12395	6166	1418	7873	10056	922	2653	1494
Gainsborough	4650	75987	5413	4188	30533	21771	16049	24361	918
Grantham	2842	26200	2343	2060	10271	16655	3254	5039	759
Great Grimsby	9313	55032	26181	4380	26897	17428	34376	14394	3217
Huntingdon	676	6676	2280	741	2215	2096	..	5580	180
Lincoln	16928	309068	142428	23552	90543	154976	129206	136250	4190
Newark	2291	17144	1424	1334	5198	6568	1605	8780	268
Peterborough	18149	199403	11351	12960	76382	75621	19332	86585	2238
Retford	1689	17959	1480	1050	5524	6080	1705	7468	1008
St. Ives (Hunts.)	792	3735	1672	484	2444	2371	..	1123	162
Saxby	100	610	1	270	455	..	..	749	226
Skegness	259	860	625	..	320	678	378	286	155
Spalding	1252	6777	3548	283	4021	5762	..	1322	376
Walmsgate	89	190	11	143	172	142	..	157	20
Wisbech Phoenix	530	1524	1171	426	1821	616	276	467	359
Retail Societies Total	61911	734460	206094	53289	264669	320820	207103	295214	15565
Productive Society:— Lincoln Land and Building	621	5367	55279	3823	467	626	57995	5636	276
District Total	62532	739827	261373	57112	265136	321446	265098	300850	15841
No. 10—SHROPSHIRE & MID- WALES DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
zAberystwyth	372	1088	337	32	747	1007	..	210	26
zBourton	43	131	..	371	210	24	..	305	45
yChirk and District	672	6353	140	725	4090	4051	1280	1000	121
zEllesmere	210	1072	60	105	287	542	..	334	175
zIronbridge & Coalbrookdale	1038	9707	1	605	5972	3108	543	2607	892
zNewtown	1246	11901	668	1496	4020	3856	1119	5872	1008
zOakengates	2663	22770	521	1323	10226	5343	..	12312	79
yOswestry	1179	7002	933	150	3848	3933	798	956	71
zPrees	392	1658	1078	253	896	1162	511	634	276
ySt. Martin's	170	1090	109	195	443	738	..	164	185
zShrewsbury	4130	24833	6318	1605	12654	13342	3821	5802	1074
zTibberton	38	59	..	..	175	..	..	16	..
zWelshpool	347	1674	..	158	1055	174	..	939	188
zWhitchurch	790	3903	1501	135	2190	2421	..	981	1721
District Total	13290	93241	11666	7153	46813	39701	8072	32132	5861

z Transferred from Western Section, District No. 1. x Transferred from Midland Section, District No. 6. y Transferred from North-Western Section, District No. 4.
 z Transferred from Western Section, District No. 2.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	49	13	2498	834	40099	2844	573	1 0	52	..	30	11 13 4	
2	156	61	7588	4108	153285	16213	3450	1 8	..	123	37	24 15 0	
3	57	21	3556	1469	78694	7000	1145	1 8	..	5	10	13 0 0	
4	196	46	9682	3112	191616	13064	2316	1 3	..	124	246	39 5 2	
5	9	4	618	107	14159	1585	334	2 0	..	5	8	3 11 3	
6	514	218	28458	16137	587747	64137	12612	1 7½	..	590	316	82 10 0	
7	39	12	2113	634	44042	4818	735	1 10½	..	..	13	11 2 0
8	450	123	24641	7932	462353	51618	9340	1 9½	..	425	149	91 8 0	
9	32	11	1786	747	51549	4563	836	5 8	..	44	19	8 8 0	
10	14	3	726	238	13790	871	169	1 0½	17	..	6	3 19 7	
11	3	..	129	..	4262	385	27	3 0	..	..	4	0 9 5
12	3	1	255	102	4300	233	19	0 9	..	..	1	1 12 0
13	24	4	1272	212	20142	858	274	0 7½	..	12	2	5 5 4	
14	3	..	93	..	2275	123	8	1 3½	..	..	..	..
15	9	2	481	149	15449	717	63	1 0	18	..	7	2 14 2	
1558			519	83896	35781	1689762	168796	31901	..	87	1328	848	299 13 3
16	..		8	..	766	1461	501	270	1 0	3 5 0
1558			527	83896	36547	1691223	169297	32171	..	87	1328	848	302 18 3
1	6	2	253	103	5501	304	32	1 5½	..	4	5	1 10 3	
2	1	1	46	26	1350	84	6	1 0	3	..	..	0 4 7
3	18	10	1203	535	26742	2626	264	2 0	..	..	7	3 10 3
4	2	..	173	..	3818	279	43	1 10	..	..	..	1 1 0
5	27	4	1252	335	24687	1933	439	1 3½	..	16	..	5 6 2	
6	19	5	1091	369	29916	4508	433	2 8	..	50	7	5 6 4	
7	64	15	3210	1190	87865	9104	1041	1 10	..	45	55	13 4 9	
8	26	5	1209	358	24997	2286	295	1 8	..	19	9	5 10 8	
9	8	3	373	189	6909	394	72	1 2	..	..	2	1 15 0
10	5	2	294	130	8035	568	44	1 5	..	13	3	0 12 6	
11	73	17	4185	1334	80763	8454	1126	1 6	97	114	23	19 18 0	
12	1	..	54	..	1181	4	3	..	..	..	..	0 4 0
13	5	1	312	85	8973	750	62	1 7	18	14	3	1 14 0	
14	13	2	644	143	25841	1073	103	1 9	..	..	..	3 12 11
268			67	14290	4797	336578	32363	3963	..	118	275	114	63 10 5

e Loss.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
No.1—NORTHAMPTON AND EARLS BARTON ..	19	13780	£ 136245	£ 46184	£ 12627	£ 56180	£ 62064	£ 29275	£ 68750	£ 1970
„ 2—WELLINGBORO' AND KETTERING	30	31566	£ 654500	£ 181500	£ 118126	£ 326302	£ 200446	£ 296612	£ 307595	£ 70818
„ 3—LEICESTER	42	54491	£ 724876	£ 170150	£ 57101	£ 266585	£ 319609	£ 149835	£ 315043	£ 41482
„ 4—COVENTRY	18	43064	£ 516890	£ 36420	£ 39766	£ 175348	£ 164385	£ 125786	£ 192197	£ 4107
„ 5—BIRMINGHAM	18	88110	£ 736065	£ 67642	£ 57354	£ 316562	£ 389340	£ 35777	£ 279873	£ 13896
„ 6—STAFFORD	15	48827	£ 476441	£ 37581	£ 33510	£ 175807	£ 190761	£ 19022	£ 227515	£ 17726
„ 7—DERBY	15	72224	£ 1154009	£ 69694	£ 55427	£ 359035	£ 412725	£ 239421	£ 409812	£ 17034
„ 8—NOTTINGHAM	26	55117	£ 848135	£ 86884	£ 45520	£ 302640	£ 249010	£ 143129	£ 394164	£ 19996
„ 9—LINCOLN	16	62532	£ 739827	£ 261373	£ 57112	£ 265136	£ 321446	£ 265098	£ 300850	£ 15841
* „ 10—SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES	14	13290	£ 93241	£ 11666	£ 7153	£ 46813	£ 39701	£ 8072	£ 32132	£ 5861
Totals, 1916	213	483001	£ 6080229	£ 969094	£ 483696	£ 2290408	£ 2349487	£ 1242627	£ 2527931	£ 208138
Totals, 1915	213	445770	£ 5362464	£ 888766	£ 401948	£ 1839113	£ 2251107	£ 1274065	£ 1968434	£ 181158
Increase .....	..	37231	£ 617765	£ 80328	£ 81748	£ 451295	£ 98380	£ ..	£ 559497	£ 25975
Decrease .....	..	..	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ 32038	£ ..	£ ..

* New district comprises societies some of which were in other sections last year.

Summary showing Members, Capital.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	174	472185	5864702	767015	351105	1958407	2217749	1182286	2444255
Productive Societies	38	10756	214611	202079	132176	331965	131738	59202	82864
Special Society	1	60	916	..	415	36	..	539	812
Total for Section ..	213	483001	6080229	969094	483696	2290408	2349487	1242027	2527931

MIDLAND SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
			£	£	£	£	£	£	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
1	218	72	15264	3903	356813	36954	5370	43	496	163	60 16 3
2	420	3276	33628	218400	1828600	181175	25494	17813	1663	2044	169 15 7
3	1076	1256	68625	96049	1994119	108814	29200	6135	1606	941	261 18 3
4	879	271	49557	19822	1143539	148870	17092	20	1961	334	211 10 9
5	1786	343	116592	29036	2225519	230105	30405	2496	2764	932	338 5 0
6	979	561	62918	39973	1361826	144106	21046	3308	1149	675	224 16 2
7	1897	570	116185	43276	2659792	350327	46883	1247	3302	5883	358 17 10
8	1169	531	73736	34550	1931294	220096	36434	2451	1267	1262	259 6 0
9	1558	527	83896	36547	1691223	169297	32171	87	1328	848	302 18 3
10	268	67	14299	4797	336578	32363	3963	118	275	114	63 10 5
	10245	7474	634700	525353	15529303	1622107	248058	33718	15811	13196	2251 14 6
	9022	7726	579085	453104	13295720	1530081	215938	26024	14458	11317	2094 5 6
	1223	..	55615	72249	2233583	92026	32120	7694	1353	1879	157 9 0
	..	252	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Trade, &c., of various classes of Societies.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
10230	2983	630659	216143	18975732	1505540	237712	10288	14193	11594	2175 9 8
15	4541	3684	309210	1552917	116508	10307	23430	1618	1602	75 14 10
..	..	357	..	664	59	39	..	..	..	0 10 0
10245	7474	634700	525353	15529303	1622107	248058	33718	15811	13196	2251 14 6

NORTHERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
RIDING OF YORKSHIRE, for 1916, arranged

^a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. ^b These particulars are taken
this office or

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1.—NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Amble	1945	29984	57	1009	7745	7227	660	17732	772
Ashington Equitable	997	9988	4279	1494	9003	3521	447	4041	100
" Industrial	5668	126455	382	6165	32367	26844	21375	61263	2254
Rebside	596	8740	269	329	3136	600	182	6041	455
Bedlington	2365	35713	26793	1548	13955	22453	6978	19777	4553
Blyth—Central Industrial	2284	46022	..	2292	14456	10149	..	25356	1383
" Clive Industrial	381	3940	719	1	1680	2020	..	627	345
Broomhill	1145	22151	1584	1401	4350	4648	462	17627	71
Cambois	600	17012	636	38	3900	2868	3752	8055	73
Choppington	445	3479	..	200	1631	1270	..	879	567
Felton	97	611	245	78	510	435	..	254	295
Guide Post	767	11969	379	896	3850	3496	128	6614	530
Hedgeley	670	7127	687	339	8353	1288	..	1069	500
Howick	462	6214	..	656	1389	191	..	6632	84
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea ..	2002	50048	7712	1734	9844	15099	18932	18117	1534
New Delaval	1005	22307	30	292	3779	3095	7408	9357	1132
Otterburn	130	1012	299	18	514	830	..	202	232
Pegswood	750	11942	2799	1081	2932	3215	858	10040	506
Radcliffe	4187	7065	..	331	2173	347	..	5553	230
Sea Houses & N. S'land ..	280	3411	26	75	1594	894	..	1280	117
Togston Ter. & Bro'mh'l ..	160	2652	..	141	1711	166	..	1071	110
Tweedside	2836	26258	67	3306	8479	6312	1109	14718	2381
Widdrington	407	2992	5747	675	2139	8	..	8278	171
District Total	25410	457122	52710	24099	139490	116976	62291	244583	19103
No. 2.—SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Backworth	910	26221	1136	988	5820	11280	796	12537	1307
Coxlodge and Fawdon ..	680	10543	919	600	3379	3141	354	7395	552
Cramlington	4707	100243	39042	6084	26574	20107	9752	96138	3312
Newcastle-upon-Tyne ...	36020	534188	105354	8624	118854	152383	116812	361721	1933
North Shields	4957	10537	40730	404	15382	29018	1193	7725	2904
St. Anthony's	813	7953	..	409	2863	576	..	6304	..
Seaton Delaval	2045	70104	2282	1702	17070	12230	8899	36252	5027
Seghill	321	7074	330	200	1950	757	..	5493	276
Shiremoor	1080	22551	967	733	4504	4867	2423	14396	1013

SECTION.

NORTHUMBERLAND, CUMBERLAND, DURHAM, WESTMORLAND, and the NORTH in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.				Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
				Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital		Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1	59	24	3494	1271	86020	11546	1247	2 6	..	..	21	9	15 11
2	47	31	2633	1081	53282	5849	456	1 11 1/2	..	..	29	4	14 8
3	210	80	13274	5717	292332	37187	5701	2 1	..	300	109	26	5 1
4	18	5	1428	235	34708	4398	350	2 4	..	..	16	3	2 1
5	64	53	5400	2752	113763	13327	1617	2 0	..	..	534	12	0 0
6	73	34	3218	1601	101232	13605	2137	2 1 1/2	..	..	62	11	8 0
7	8	..	593	..	5606	4465	172	0 10 1/2	..	..	..	..	..
8	31	8	2324	498	55981	7296	831	2 6	..	2	27	5	0 0
9	10	11	1409	759	40437	5869	782	2 7 1/2	..	..	20	3	1 9
10	15	5	887	249	19228	2291	164	2 3	..	..	3	2	8 3
11	2	..	113	..	4029	263	25	2 2	..	4	..	..	0 10 3
12	22	5	1334	188	37895	4670	509	2 2	..	..	7	3	15 9
13	18	..	992	..	60076	2136	284	2 4	..	..	5	2	17 5
14	10	..	524	..	17561	2691	276	3 0	..	71	24	2	7 1
15	70	23	4517	1911	113945	15314	2236	2 1	..	..	47	9	18 0
16	32	16	2341	939	56110	7398	1013	2 5 1/2	..	..	21	5	0 0
17	3	..	197	..	4442	424	47	1 6	..	..	1	0	12 6
18	24	6	1558	447	48276	6393	525	2 2 1/2	..	12	19	3	14 4
19	13	1	935	60	22281	3362	271	3 0	..	..	13	2	2 8
20	5	..	363	..	9142	1321	124	2 7	..	..	3	1	8 0
21	6	..	387	..	7511	1035	117	2 6	..	..	3	0	16 8
22	48	25	2837	1856	91897	10344	1010	2 3 1/2	..	..	44	15	7 8
23	9	3	705	26	25261	3855	141	3 1 1/2	..	..	6	2	2 0
	803	330	51363	19590	1301015	†160574	20035	..	75	314	1014	128	8 1
1	30	7	2603	483	67300	12076	1157	3 2	..	10	44	4	14 8
2	18	..	1460	..	41868	5220	451	2 4 1/2	..	..	31	3	3 2
3	138	59	12667	5019	292209	39123	4776	2 3 1/2	..	..	68	24	1 2
4	1242	159	60690	13442	1350478	176993	24611	2 3	..	82	455	161	13 6
5	117	20	5976	1620	130384	13600	370	2 0	..	54	9	21	0 0
6	25	..	1523	..	33477	5151	356	2 9	..	..	9	3	1 9
7	80	45	5995	1709	139358	16933	3281	2 0	..	..	53	10	13 6
8	10	..	739	..	18832	3349	307	3 3 1/2	..	..	16	1	12 2
9	26	6	2176	339	70248	11842	1069	3 1	..	..	37	5	9 0

c Loss. † Before deducting the loss, £465.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND DIST.—<i>Con.</i>										
Walker-on-Tyne	2223	24801	3192	1416	9262	6922	4719	11275	1105	10
Wallsend	6856	138481	11737	7496	27330	23587	47930	72111	1105	11
Willington Q. & Howden	2056	25368	5997	1446	8361	12658	3883	9892	1505	12
Retail Societies Total	62668	975127	211686	30102	241355	277626	196761	641299	18934	
Productive Societies:—										
Co-operative Laundries—										
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	57	16430	29833	2354	1293	22211	..	25282	1679	13
Newcastle-on-T.—Household Furnishing	121	6363	25356	887	4447	30009	..	163	3451	14
Produc. Societies Total	178	22793	55189	3241	5740	52220	..	25445	5130	
District Total	62846	997920	266875	33343	247095	320846	196761	666744	24064	
No. 3—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND DIST.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Aspatra	2245	23865	..	1702	9634	6227	3519	9811	894	1
Broughton Moor	132	690	578	120	651	580	..	604	121	2
Carlisle	10203	140110	526	9135	53591	64132	815	42574	11847	3
Cleator Moor	6859	130790	25	5197	28186	23626	..	80296	13362	4
Dalston	429	5392	..	178	1944	687	798	2592	304	5
Egremont	1684	43340	404	905	9497	8010	4934	22433	2910	6
Houghton	82	737	525	62	238	886	..	205	157	7
Keswick	748	8980	32	651	2761	1831	2707	2449	814	8
Lazonby	508	6604	..	464	2042	870	423	3573	938	9
Longtown	501	5109	73	374	1416	374	1802	2391	140	10
Maryport	4816	43916	21529	4927	20157	10239	12307	34616	3269	11
Naworth Collieries	443	3328	..	177	1902	1365	975	803	717	12
Penrith	1676	19536	723	1279	6095	6417	1872	7463	2922	13
Tebay	239	2166	..	205	1539	675	114	733	112	14
Upperby	98	381	..	108	202	2	..	517	62	15
Warwick Bridge	142	1551	..	271	526	382	..	1169	448	16
Wigton	392	2460	2	262	960	770	..	1626	..	17
Workington Beehive	3147	34951	1718	3953	14788	11316	2471	19833	3363	18
" Industrial	2636	41386	..	2253	12357	13574	3792	20553	3067	19
District Total	36980	515292	26135	32223	168846	151963	36534	254301	45447	
No. 4—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH N'THUMBERLAND DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Allendale	606	6391	..	644	2024	979	495	4806	500	1
Alston	351	724	292	39	370	516	..	423	24	2
Annfield Plain	8473	208961	5077	11390	40824	29745	39435	134679	11860	3
Blaydon	12755	298544	12317	4040	38030	42876	111428	157997	6524	4
Burnopfield	1960	62160	3191	1870	10498	18739	12199	29672	1340	5
Coanwood	251	1994	5	250	992	430	..	684	521	6
Consett	3149	72370	1976	851	16665	15247	19031	23286	4190	7
Esh	771	17708	..	702	5725	5013	1778	8188	2457	8
Fourstones & Newbrough	433	3632	..	284	1249	90	25	3656	284	9

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
10	64	12	3486	816	91927	12027	948	2 4½	..	..	30	10 11 2
11	182	52	11624	3876	271770	40358	6473	2 5	..	220	651	33 6 8
12	62	11	3919	919	89465	11423	1171	2 3	..	50	41	9 7 6
	1994	371	112858	28223	2597316	348095	44970	..	..	416	1444	288 14 3
13	..	203	....	9672	29502	2016	846	0 6	..	..	6	0 15 0
14	..	96	....	6726	16561	£751	..	..	..	..	..	1 0 0
	..	299	....	16398	46063	†2016	846	..	..	..	6	1 15 0
	1994	670	112858	44621	2643379	350111	45816	..	..	416	1450	290 9 3
1	44	16	2720	1115	74863	8342	1123	2 0	..	100	..	11 7 7
2	2	..	158	..	5159	834	31	3 0	..	..	5	..
3	313	80	20782	5523	407154	48437	5474	2 1½	..	150	135	50 6 5
4	141	45	12895	3744	297731	40834	5374	2 7½	..	40	124	32 11 0
5	7	..	421	..	15294	1407	261	2 4½	..	..	4	2 3 6
6	43	21	3109	1158	75161	10345	1633	2 5½	..	12	43	8 10 10
7	2	..	190	..	3512	245	33	2 3½	19	..	1	0 8 4
8	16	5	833	162	16668	2211	305	2 3	..	..	7	3 14 3
9	11	..	683	..	22909	1579	317	2 10½	..	..	5	2 12 9
10	10	..	507	..	18498	2090	228	1 8	..	..	2	2 8 6
11	111	54	7582	2722	162410	21281	1930	2 4	..	202	118	24 13 4
12	10	5	721	158	19268	1646	153	2 1	..	..	..	2 3 6
13	30	4	1817	275	48013	5019	751	2 0	..	40	10	8 4 8
14	5	..	308	..	9230	766	109	2 0	..	..	1	0 11 9
15	2	..	138	..	5488	605	12	3 0	..	..	8	....
16	4	..	244	..	7481	483	60	2 2	..	..	1	..
17	6	..	439	..	19666	1260	150	2 3	..	..	6	1 18 0
18	71	32	3951	1367	104206	16613	1728	2 10½	..	60	83	14 13 0
19	63	33	4138	1806	96284	15806	1614	2 10½	..	142	42	12 16 3
	891	295	61636	18030	1408995	179303	21261	..	19	746	595	180 3 8
1	11	..	617	..	27206	2055	232	3 0	..	..	8	2 14 3
2	4	..	151	..	3524	250	24	1 7½	..	..	..	1 2 11
3	299	66	20993	2836	539770	119679	9778	4 5	..	450	..	41 7 0
4	304	66	19739	5737	536127	89512	11145	3 3	..	400	..	56 1 0
5	58	16	4861	1510	121033	20712	2631	3 2	..	229	34	....
6	5	..	227	..	7639	1254	65	3 5	..	..	3	1 5 10
7	74	19	4255	983	96501	13040	3299	1 8	..	100	52	14 11 8
8	21	3	1858	100	45519	8762	816	3 10	..	..	14	4 0 5
9	6	..	391	..	13088	1452	149	2 5	..	..	..	2 4 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Property.	All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Greenhead	308	3058	81	244	2264	526	..	853	388
Haltwhistle	1103	24428	..	747	5524	2876	588	15272	2390
Haydon Bridge	362	4475	..	103	1468	942	1004	1605	204
Leadgate	2613	44853	..	4903	12047	10433	5373	24836	5709
Nenthead	114	525	..	93	548	..	..	313	134
Swalwell	1034	14198	6435	403	3520	4050	2433	15158	1306
Tantobie	620	24981	1050	100	3213	4825	7457	11230	516
Throckley	2144	47285	20424	2635	12305	10299	11238	41413	2358
West Stanley	4213	145468	7880	3176	23853	43902	16763	76869	4575
West Wylam & Prudhoe ..	4273	103663	4787	6625	18820	15154	23582	62372	4621
Whitfield	127	1431	..	226	892	120	..	1061	1
Retail Societies Total	45660	1086840	63485	39415	200831	207762	252829	614463	49992
Productive Societies:—									
Co-operative Bakeries ..	75	1711	3666	300	503	2424	..	1851	171
Derwent Flour Mill	710	18277	26728	..	12536	13276	..	17926	3033
Produc. Societies Total	15	19988	30394	300	13039	15700	..	19777	3204
District Total	45675	1106837	93879	39715	213870	223462	252829	634240	53196
NO. 5—EAST DURHAM DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Birtley	5052	95236	21308	5273	38650	47424	17478	18006	12874
Boldon	4039	68330	2095	2093	18224	14860	5150	41737	3640
Chester-le-Street	3378	164712	6156	7798	34850	31994	21964	91349	13248
Craghead and Holmside ..	587	15538	..	1011	4467	6228	..	7800	383
Felling Industrial	1696	22388	1230	987	8929	3782	..	13291	1632
Felling Shore, Hew'th. &c	879	14135	..	984	4314	2054	..	10834	285
Gateshead	14854	219496	4457	7003	53657	47671	51292	117601	81
Haswell	3365	47215	13190	4915	23098	24854	..	15664	7236
Hebburn Colliery	361	1735	89	385	1044	978	..	602	352
Jarrow and Hebburn ..	8103	162580	11458	12153	41477	39070	34603	86216	9385
Marsden	312	5812	150	279	2196	2360	703	516	183
Murton Colliery	2117	42663	2335	3418	12552	2442	4958	32840	1089
Pelton Fell	609	11350	259	247	4526	1683	1328	5862	795
Ryhope and Silksworth ..	12352	149587	..	10833	70103	43423	..	110664	1002
Seaham Harbour	3323	39170	8756	1242	19082	19577	2321	21017	1347
South Hetton Amicable ..	277	2368	506	182	1828	1700	..	488	401
South Shields	5640	56116	6214	1792	22083	22573	929	21217	5277
Sunderland	19588	89310	109407	11641	58856	68450	82750	22222	6455
Tyne Dock	1877	27652	2238	451	7459	10100	3757	9657	2028
West Pelton	1553	18726	508	1251	12114	17710	4673	18956	1847
Windy Nook	1627	31681	2055	1903	7258	9359	6983	14288	1780
District Total	93711	1315800	103311	75761	447667	418244	238799	660827	71320
NO. 6—SOUTH DURHAM DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bearpark	218	1838	571	4	1363	508	..	833	187
Bishop Auckland	19441	465603	..	13889	101519	63388	147231	215452	9329
Brandon and Byshottles ..	1576	41908	473	3252	8610	11913	4758	21959	4778
Cornforth and Coxhoe ..	2288	54064	4970	1198	14221	13346	7180	27537	2313
Crook	5601	105840	..	1517	22101	16059	19266	121354	17476
Durham	2214	51001	1197	784	7980	10435	31565	4069	2044
Easington Lane	808	12402	1053	366	4647	2785	2175	5898	..

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.								
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.				
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
10	10	..	607	..	14581	1771	142	3 5	..	..	4	1	10 9
11	20	10	1422	611	53699	9395	1011	3 5	..	..	44	5	8 6
12	7	3	389	119	13563	1586	189	2 6	..	..	..	1	16 3
13	58	16	4618	706	131431	27977	2163	4 2	..	..	26	12	11 4
14	4	..	200	..	4399	355	22	1 11	..	..	1	0	12 4
15	33	9	2147	503	63419	9787	741	2 10	..	..	40	129	5 1 0
16	20	2	1694	161	41835	5756	1107	2 1	..	..	27	13	3 2 10
17	68	21	4399	2027	137762	22995	2018	3 0	..	..	245	53	10 9 8
18	170	36	9245	2375	262072	42283	6971	3 2 1	..	..	113	72	21 9 2
19	110	48	7710	3282	225918	40995	4283	3 4	..	..	403	38	20 9 10
20	3	1	199	55	7548	691	67	3 8	..	..	1	0	12 7
1285.		316	85752	21005	2346634	420307	46856	..	..	2007	492	206	11 4
21	..	19	....	1418	13803	821	86	0 6	..	..	..	1	1 0
22	..	49	....	4364	229218	3408	914	0 3	..	..	7	2	2 0
..		68	....	5782	243021	4229	1000	..	..	..	7	3	3 0
1285		384	85752	26787	2589655	424536	47856	..	..	2007	499	209	14 4
1	199	74	12863	4973	278736	46995	3685	3 6	7	..	147	23	11 4
2	107	4	5440	172	196390	37086	3121	3 4	1105	34	65	18	18 7
3	174	74	14408	3825	328386	55920	6617	3 0 1	..	274	153	27	8 6
4	18	5	1523	282	48311	7875	724	3 1	..	5	14	2	12 6
5	42	2	2567	63	63676	11538	1009	3 3	..	..	13	8	16 4
6	27	1	1896	66	49793	7955	640	2 9 1	..	..	24	4	4 10
7	422	76	27670	6615	674157	92766	9839	2 4 1	..	..	252	71	19 8
8	98	27	7318	2113	148353	23145	2264	2 7 1	..	..	7	16	11 3
9	7	..	545	11073	1841	75	3 2	..	..	..	1	1	19 1
10	304	71	13691	6345	415965	72554	7701	3 3	..	734	124	40	7 1
11	8	3	691	174	20013	2983	254	2 10	..	..	6	1	13 9
12	92	7	5113	464	130708	23476	1857	3 3	..	6	43	10	13 6
13	22	7	1407	309	45431	8073	501	3 5	..	..	23	2	15 5
14	264	84	22239	7963	599957	125539	7565	4 0	..	..	988	63	13 2
15	95	15	6487	1206	137379	26907	2013	3 4	..	..	78	16	11 3
16	7	1	532	33	10998	1376	105	2 7	..	..	2	1	7 11
17	187	17	8560	917	222780	32784	2367	2 8 1	..	..	75	26	8 0
18	404	135	20184	9015	423792	41654	4116	1 9 1	1056	..	232	92	11 0
19	55	12	2876	162	64851	10805	1197	3 0	..	..	26	9	7 6
20	56	17	4686	812	97201	16200	2361	3 6	..	..	44	8	2 0
21	50	2	3175	201	89554	15599	1362	3 2	..	..	49	7	14 2
2638		634	163871	45710	4057504	663091	59373	..	1112	2109	2366	457	6 10
1	5	2	439	44	12231	2074	81	4 0	..	..	4	0	11 6
2	487	130	31101	9719	766109	109396	22800	2 4	..	..	230	98	14 8
3	49	23	4056	1837	125342	25144	2032	3 7 1	..	..	49	7	11 10
4	60	24	4525	2118	111470	17784	2096	2 10	..	..	63	11	1 6
5	106	44	8642	4446	267418	52659	6152	3 4	..	11	58	26	8 0
6	54	11	3255	717	65227	9096	2602	1 11	..	95	29	11	8 3
7	25	4	1418	455	41794	6233	582	3 2	..	..	10	4	13 2

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
SOUTH DURHAM DISTRICT—Con.									
Framwellgate Moor	231	743	1322		690	1575		319	469
Hetton Downs	2278	43118	1000	1984	15929	11089	5073	18878	859
Low Moorsley	396	8560	408	363	2781	851	940	5660	347
Newbottle	2485	50186		1741	24454	16329	1388	12630	3947
New Brancepeth	1130	21104	6644	144	9001	4240	2908	14530	682
Pittington	1585	29084	418	2233	11638	5689	4526	12847	1822
Sherburn Hill	4200	67761		4254	23756	17244		36351	6102
Stanhope and Weardale	1772	35067	1186	1226	10922	7378	3447	18975	1475
Station Town	1414	25304	2392	1034	9208	7650	2404	11808	348
Tow Law	1485	35238	1823	1001	7776	3112	4796	26009	1824
Tudhoe Colliery	2131	22643	204	1767	9050	4691		14131	242
West Cornforth	2159	27001	1372	627	7372	8309		17936	1398
Willington	2183	57741	6773	1084	11826	5983	9027	41427	1587
District Total	55595	1216296	31806	38468	304514	212673	246684	628603	57229
No. 7.—SOUTH DURHAM & NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Barnard Castle	1060	8557	502	895	3533	3445	100	2908	978
Castle Howard	355	2491		270	1303	165		1146	667
Darlington	13876	104294	2436	6089	47545	27980	15050	33056	1441
East Cleveland	4118	55913	4575	4195	14465	13714	8530	34134	2243
Grosmont	378	2800	9	106	1020	239	196	1908	
Guisborough	1711	32100	1437	433	6532	4252	7433	24456	1600
Hartlepool	11463	105488	47245	15518	49636	104165	23506	17187	5620
Kirkby Stephen	415	3778		160	1976	1153		649	541
Malton and Norton	900	5682	811	410	3220	2607		1656	240
Marske-by-the-Sea	370	3909	674	169	1818	619	150	2444	169
Middlesbrough	23985	222027	10512	21320	102840	99631	19814	73735	1347
Northallerton	950	6030		454	2925	617		3291	349
Pickering	590	3267	120	233	1642	1545		1051	47
Skelton	1874	14577	651	1021	7917	2740	1552	4832	976
Stockton-on-Tees	18191	183996	15078	15497	69763	54792	46028	71481	190
Teesdale Workmen's	1326	27692	711	1587	8000	3070	2175	17526	1120
Thirsk	455	2364	476	220	1511	77	117	1620	259
Whitby	1313	6088	1562	364	2873	2184	470	2877	204
Retail Societies Total	83330	791003	86799	63881	328519	322095	125121	295957	17901
Productive Societies :—									
αBrandsby Agricul. Trad'g	253	3419	1139	568	2818	1426		523	3755
Northallerton Corn Mill.	481	1714	592		339	3062		23	2402
Produc. Societies Total	734	5133	1731	568	3157	4488		546	6157
District Total	84064	796136	88530	69449	331676	327483	125121	296503	24148

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
8	5	..	423	..	4670	44	33	0 9½	..	..	1 8 0
9	83	15	4692	1314	122849	22113	1954	3 4	..	165	11 3 10
10	10	4	875	196	24371	4092	358	3 4½	..	2	1 17 5
11	103	24	6699	1995	159051	32442	2372	3 10	..	24	12 8 9
12	44	12	2447	1048	71354	13618	927	3 10	..	20	5 14 7
13	56	10	4226	747	97810	18166	1237	3 9½	..	65	7 12 7
14	114	34	6511	3480	251524	41627	2772	3 2	..	50	19 15 2
15	36	..	2417	..	60822	8090	1110	3 0	..	12	8 18 6
16	53	5	3235	347	65086	9631	1092	2 6	..	15	6 10 0
17	39	14	2369	903	59310	10428	1331	3 2	..	41	7 13 8
18	63	3	4360	414	108787	15383	1066	2 8½	..	67	10 16 8
19	47	13	3952	371	115541	17371	1259	3 0	..	18	9 19 3
20	62	18	3992	1365	96012	15624	2260	2 9	..	40	11 7 6
1501		390	99634	31516	2629378	431015	54086	..	..	146	960 275 14 10
1	16	..	993	..	25204	2169	409	1 11	..	10	5 11 6
2	10	..	411	..	12038	868	90	2 0	..	9	1 12 10
3	242	40	16696	3055	330834	44370	3782	2 4	211	271	247 67 15 0
4	98	27	7485	2009	168646	25642	2134	2 8	..	40	230 19 3 4
5	7	..	323	..	11630	1432	122	2 8	..	..	17 1 17 0
6	44	4	3057	210	71281	9211	1170	2 4	..	6	38 8 5 8
7	374	107	23534	7269	457250	62475	5091	2 3	..	..	136 54 10 10
8	6	..	495	..	10881	769	157	1 10	..	..	2 3 3
9	20	1	1022	107	25115	2920	234	2 3	109	22½	8 4 8 9
10	9	2	666	41	13660	1588	174	2 4½	..	3	9 1 17 1
11	630	142	32318	11093	749856	90749	8394	2 3½	..	342	123 115 4 3
12	10	..	830	..	21114	2438	274	2 1½	..	..	19 4 15 6
13	8	..	508	..	13567	1157	141	2 7	..	..	3 0 2
14	43	15	2515	1035	53551	6500	482	2 5	..	10	17 9 11 8
15	481	156	28897	13173	633354	81926	7123	2 6	..	..	88 11 0
16	28	9	2056	513	45634	4764	1022	2 10	..	18	19 6 16 7
17	10	..	425	..	10759	928	107	1 6	..	5	1 2 4 8
18	20	2	976	96	22068	2212	230	1 11½	..	19	17 6 15 4
2056		505	123117	38601	2676442	342118	31146	..	320	742	900 404 4 5
19	..	14	..	1230	33157	826	167	..	..	..	1 6 4
20	5	3	342	183	10708	36	..	..	..	..	..
5		17	342	1413	43865	862	167	..	..	..	1 6 4
2061		522	123459	40014	2720307	342980	31313	..	320	742	900 405 10 9

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Property.	All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND	23	25410	457122	52710	24039	139490	116976	62291	244583	19103
" 2—SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND	14	62846	997920	266875	33843	247095	329846	196761	666744	24064
" 3—CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND ..	19	36980	515292	26135	32223	168846	151963	36534	254901	45447
" 4—WEST DURHAM AND SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND	22	45675	1106837	93879	39715	213870	223462	252-29	634240	53196
" 5—EAST DURHAM	21	93711	1315800	193311	75761	447667	418244	238799	660827	71320
" 6—SOUTH DURHAM....	20	55595	1216296	31806	38468	304514	212673	246684	628603	57229
" 7—SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	20	84064	796136	88530	69449	331676	327483	125121	296503	24148
Totals, 1916.....	139	404281	6405403	753246	313058	1853158	1780647	1159019	3385801	294507
Totals, 1915.....	141	375542	5849433	663605	301541	1496974	1896701	1146728	2987570	253006
Increase .....	..	28739	555970	89641	11517	356184	..	12291	398231	41501
Decrease	2	..	..	..	..	..	116054	..	..	..

Summary showing Members, Capital,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	133	403354	6357489	665932	308949	1831222	1708239	1159019	3340383	280016
Productive Societies	6	927	47914	87314	4109	21936	72408	..	45768	14491
Total for Section ..	139	404281	6405403	753246	313058	1853158	1780647	1159019	3385801	294507

NORTHERN SECTION.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
								Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	808	389	51868	19590	1301015	160574	20035	75	314	1014	128 8 1
2	1994	670	112858	44621	2643379	350111	45816	..	416	1450	290 9 3
3	891	295	61636	11030	1408995	179303	21261	19	746	595	180 3 8
4	1278	384	85752	2787	2589655	424536	47856	..	2007	499	209 14 4
5	2638	634	163871	45710	4057504	663091	59373	1112	2109	2366	457 6 10
6	1501	390	99634	31516	2629378	431015	54086	..	146	960	2 5 14 10
7	2061	522	123459	40014	2720307	342980	31313	320	742	900	4 5 10 9
	11166	3225	698573	226268	17350233	2551610	279740	1526	6680	7781	1947 7 9
	9897	3261	634124	210815	14270502	2215761	251286	607	6222	9196	1766 6 1
	1269	..	64449	15453	3099731	335849	28454	919	458	..	181 1 8
	..	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1412	....

Trade, &c., of various classes of Societies.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
11161	2841	698231	202675	17017284	2544503	277727	1526	6680	7777	1941 3 5
5	384	342	23593	332949	7107	2013	..	..	7	6 4 4
11166	3225	698573	226268	17350233	2551610	279740	1526	6680	7784	1947 7 9

NORTH-WESTERN

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
WESTMORLAND, YORK (EAST AND WEST RIDINGS), and ISLE OF

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
No. 1—AIREDALE DIST.—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Addingham	314	4623	..	181	1988	2131	..	871	231
Allerton	472	4855	819	588	1891	949	651	4375	190
Bingley	3516	94056	13406	5026	13227	25635	42598	36319	1373
Birkenshaw	3585	50001	538	1362	16408	9760	11732	22048	584
Bradford (City of)	22464	468174	386	7846	113243	195645	83906	169638	4652
Bradley Coal	58	64	..	48	31	12	..	43	26
Buttershaw	340	5916	270	176	1747	1208	780	4183	133
Carleton	157	1386	..	156	889	425	..	648	18
Clayton	744	11630	1047	127	3133	3013	849	8501	336
Cononley	466	2437	20	341	1395	369	..	2015	..
Cowling	286	2684	975	250	2268	1249	200	1003	197
„ and District Coal	272	133	15	136	121	86	..	36	213
Crosshills	513	4147	104	113	1130	1294	..	3258	99
Denholme	622	10614	3920	986	2828	2266	192	11520	241
Eccleshill	619	8051	159	128	3158	2323	1393	2642	499
Gargrave	302	2061	7	406	1313	489	..	1382	203
Great Horton	6721	132297	8345	3063	27417	33380	32694	65641	1117
Greengates & Apperley B.	639	10064	553	555	2631	1246	806	8521	493
Guiseley	1316	25579	3077	1621	5821	7280	5551	14599	982
Hainworth	17	22	15	17	64	8	..	30	16
Harrogate	5874	41220	3079	2009	15984	17848	861	16051	1001
Haworth	1086	15008	3462	1984	3867	4258	..	16317	469
Ingletton	552	6361	..	280	3177	1787	829	1509	448
Ingrow	88	454	..	..	240	..	..	657	13
Keighley	11350	217992	8757	12606	36503	26138	57622	132767	1103
Leeds	64847	1052524	22875	56031	350046	388189	126388	441792	1377
Lees and Cross Roads	556	7598	1651	881	3339	2987	1437	4230	270
Oxenhope	207	4567	352	317	1133	699	1157	2697	258
Queensbury	2297	49066	4310	1539	9749	14489	5715	29814	843
Rawdon	1555	27473	1546	1605	10590	6553	2375	14784	903
Ripon	836	5414	6	594	2413	2107	242	2558	..
Settle	412	3272	1319	92	1493	516	2346	551	361
Silsden	1191	25063	1658	808	6958	14744	4503	5397	890
Skipton	2173	39039	122	1809	14161	20602	1365	11906	1391
Stanbury	111	829	..	273	391	281	..	676	123
Stanningley Coal	1400	175	..	1010	23	334	..	951	309
Steeton	482	6559	2695	133	1820	2800	799	4933	161
Sutton Mill	550	6848	268	282	2628	1334	1740	3506	145
„ Coal	227	126	..	..	15	..	..	172	51
Thornton	742	11991	1552	661	2831	4159	808	9128	79
Tong Park	79	465	351	82	483	18	..	565	113

SECTION.

CARNARVON, CHESTER, DENBIGH, DERBY, FLINT, LANCASTER, STAFFORD, part of MAN, for 1916, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							Subscriptions.		
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Educational Purpos.	Charitable Purpos.	Co-operative Union.			
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	
1	9	..	651	11921	1386	179	2 0	..	..	..	..	1	13	4
2	6	4	460	265	17431	2636	178	2 10 1	..	..	..	14	2	5
3	64	38	5142	2744	141542	21219	3063	2 8	..	167	166	18	0	0
4	60	14	4703	719	130836	19096	1948	2 10	..	..	50	18	2	0
5	672	359	37850	23121	688360	92106	18272	2 5 1	..	347	782	117	4	0
6	4	..	14	..	326	9	3	1 3	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	7	2	624	97	15613	2481	232	2 11	..	..	18	1	14	3
8	4	..	143	..	5119	810	57	3 3	..	..	9	0	8	7
9	15	6	984	379	24922	3687	418	2 8 1	..	..	11	3	16	3
10	4	..	281	..	11226	1339	100	3 2	..	..	9	2	7	1
11	5	..	355	..	11766	1017	102	3 4 1	..	..	12	1	8	4
12	2	..	139	..	2851	*33	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
13	5	3	364	158	11981	1652	157	3 0	..	..	5	2	11	4
14	11	4	917	253	24310	3519	365	3 0	..	..	19	3	3	1
15	10	2	840	119	16202	2494	295	2 9 1	..	..	12	3	1	9
16	5	..	286	..	9931	1497	101	3 3	..	..	8	1	12	3
17	154	57	8767	3900	213375	31689	4812	2 7	..	..	116	32	8	10
18	11	3	748	290	23614	3390	401	2 8	..	..	16	2	19	8
19	26	9	1682	668	41583	6714	977	2 9	..	..	27	6	13	9
20	1	..	36	..	583	70	1	2 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
21	108	16	6529	1352	120894	13106	1558	1 9	..	132	90	28	10	0
22	19	6	1176	312	41105	6534	492	2 10 1	..	50	39	5	11	10
23	12	3	849	45	19721	2152	298	2 8	..	..	18	2	15	0
24	2	..	137	..	3216	546	20	3 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	195	101	15422	6473	318921	50678	2567	2 9	..	426	165	58	19	4
26	1803	569	92389	48054	2436017	319055	36863	2 5	..	2015	1186	290	8	8
27	12	4	830	208	22489	3312	248	2 10 1	..	..	4	2	16	8
28	2	..	156	..	8644	1396	171	3 2 1	..	..	4	1	1	0
29	45	34	2651	1924	73712	10913	1861	3 0	..	25	50	11	12	6
30	30	2	2009	267	52679	8757	1086	2 10 1	..	..	43	7	18	6
31	15	..	753	..	15152	1476	190	1 7	..	14	..	4	2	8
32	7	1	460	25	10005	1204	142	1 11	..	..	6	..	..	..
33	24	20	1629	897	45304	5039	1054	2 5	..	..	19	6	1	7
34	58	17	3131	1241	85505	12780	1540	2 8	..	..	37	11	1	1
35	1	..	98	..	3621	417	35	3 0 1	..	..	2	0	12	2
36	2	..	216	..	5307	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..
37	10	2	678	127	16002	2276	253	2 11	..	..	4	2	..	4
38	8	..	544	..	19203	2700	244	2 11 1	..	..	5	2	16	3
39	1	..	64	..	1082	116	6	2 1	..	..	..	..	..	..
40	15	5	885	300	23485	3467	416	3 0	..	..	49	3	7	8
41	1	..	138	..	3895	518	17	2 10	..	..	..	0	7	6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
AIREDALE DISTRICT—Con.									
Uppertown	461	6394	183	559	2680	1518	1250	2502	530
Wibsey Slack Side	494	12292	153	549	1799	2200	1227	9975	122
Wilsden	464	8350	595	889	1795	1146	188	7872	187
Windhill	8915	141585	12029	8040	27980	26085	40944	90456	204
Retail Societies Total	15037	2531259	124101	116158	702801	829560	433148	1169126	23854
Productive Societies—									
Airedale Worsteds	367	7351	2881	1990	8594	334	..	5017	2771
Bradford Cabinet Makers	74	3105	3285	428	3325	2153	..	1184	410
aKeighley Laundries	17	4012	3014	20	258	6771	..	66	202
Produc. Societies Total	458	14468	9180	2438	12177	9258	..	6267	3388
District Total	150830	2515727	133281	118597	714978	838818	433148	1175396	27237
No. 2.—BOLTON DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Adlington	851	12589	854	2290	4735	3682	3179	9900	695
Ainsworth New Road	311	3588	..	166	948	360	..	3004	114
Industrial	399	7623	..	360	1825	670	1671	4432	..
Bolton	40403	1067101	56072	43015	113172	182654	380355	493485	..
Bryn Gates (Bamfurlong)	761	12209	1680	245	6033	2910	2468	3334	1803
Chorley	3649	44988	11300	3222	12972	15841	10218	25525	249
Eagley	823	16906	3161	526	385	3934	7857	6187	15
Earlestown	3451	36439	2517	2057	12182	14420	2343	18212	320
Edgworth	592	15672	6671	536	2145	1172	3529	16307	246
Egerton	325	5501	1957	295	1253	935	..	6329	..
Farnworth and Kearsley	8883	152945	42923	13976	31888	63150	40913	93756	1330
Heapey	286	4926	31	655	854	518	2645	2239	..
Hindley	2969	3126	3953	1728	11535	11163	276	196437	295
Hindsford	966	12399	1708	2198	5541	5313	2628	5487	773
Horwich	3719	52038	8755	2545	15206	9944	7703	38594	829
Hulton and Chequerbent	224	6507	159	758	1077	336	1851	4973	45
Leigh	12639	221343	11818	15945	63113	77502	34088	98900	2583
Little Hulton	1071	23907	3095	872	4860	9590	9520	7931	593
Little Lever	738	20145	4182	1799	2408	1710	5435	17784	197
Park Lane	1550	29830	1470	1729	9710	8068	3127	15509	1449
Platt Bridge	750	11006	1077	742	5563	3798	325	3771	960
Radcliffe and Pilkington	5263	103115	11373	8509	24111	21310	30549	57998	292
Skelmersdale	1433	11246	22	1212	4450	2699	610	6716	23
Tyldesley	2091	30090	4634	3761	11076	10875	5734	15752	1378
Walkden	3068	89652	14415	4113	16278	14924	22841	64426	..
Westhoughton Friendly	1180	28739	1526	1224	8065	5445	6373	15470	235
United	1615	43636	2837	1835	10194	7274	4574	33543	660
Wheelton	125	1722	538	260	240	168	500	1812	..
White Coppice	16	88	..	44	69	5	..	73	3
Whittle-le-Woods	277	4768	331	238	1279	609	464	3554	152
Wigan	7779	101078	6727	3781	32876	24289	3987	64427	4028
Withnell (Brinscall)	505	9886	2352	1354	1423	2812	4236	5855	318
Retail Societies Total	68712	2184808	209038	121990	417556	508080	599999	1341722	19332
Distrib. Federation—									
Westhoughton & District	2	2000	..	116	1207	1053	..	605	..
Productive Society—									
Bolton Cabinet Makers	52	1552	1609	1271	5631	377	..	160	595
District Total	108798	2188360	210647	123377	424394	509510	599999	1342487	19927

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Net Profit.		In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
42	6	4	547	198	18058	1993	257	2 4	..	..	22	2 6 10
43	10	2	681	109	19001	3408	460	3 3	..	..	10	2 10 5
44	10	..	696	..	19899	3056	285	3 0	..	..	12	2 4 3
45	155	73	10901	5354	293475	44753	5423	2 7 1/2	..	100	131	41 1 0
	3626	1360	207155	99599	5080684	696503	93154	..	..	3276	3182	711 4 1
46	8	36	1358	2635	37876	1902	366	0 6	60	..	67	4 10 0
47	..	26	..	2032	4462	133	152	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
48	..	40	..	1911	4727	270	201	1 0	..	..	2	0 7 6
	8	102	1358	6578	47065	2305	719	..	60	..	69	5 7 6
	3634	1462	208513	106177	5127749	698808	93873	..	60	3276	3251	716 11 7
1	26	8	1577	379	32158	5519	471	3 0	..	..	3	4 6 3
2	6	..	248	..	8365	1409	162	3 8	..	..	3	1 12 0
3	4	..	359	..	10598	2114	272	3 8 1/2	..	..	3	2 1 2
4	757	283	59511	20116	1214296	207090	31054	3 0	..	3486	486	205 6 8
5	20	8	1880	536	45400	6414	559	2 9	..	68	9	3 10 0
6	81	26	5788	1701	123434	18217	1699	2 8	..	203	29	17 18 9
7	16	9	1482	503	29275	4464	629	2 11	..	26	19	4 5 4
8	45	20	4320	1396	112308	15837	1388	2 9	..	5	24	16 7 0
9	10	4	798	309	23363	4164	553	3 0	..	..	24	2 16 3
10	6	2	385	109	15894	2355	228	2 10 1/2	..	..	6	1 13 4
11	237	68	15470	4805	314143	52995	6200	3 0	..	84	216	42 19 0
12	6	..	377	..	12865	1810	243	3 6 1/2	..	..	10	1 8 9
13	84	26	4470	1673	112403	18670	1569	3 0	..	17	25	14 1 0
14	35	3	2118	384	54579	9166	508	3 0	..	35	80	4 9 1
15	83	26	5760	1776	134889	20234	2134	2 7	..	256	340	18 18 10
16	6	2	431	108	13724	2907	286	3 10	..	..	21	1 3 3
17	335	110	27578	8593	542361	88577	8397	3 0	..	725	311	64 13 6
18	34	16	2150	979	55840	8990	952	2 11 1/2	..	77	103	5 11 6
19	13	3	923	225	30989	5210	790	3 0	..	..	14	3 12 11
20	51	12	2635	1038	82980	12246	1273	2 7 1/2	..	119	37	7 7 10
21	23	5	1601	336	37092	5578	472	2 7	..	..	5	2 18 5
22	107	59	7893	3446	220584	37573	3922	3 0	..	768	88	26 3 2
23	29	3	1621	240	40194	5240	548	2 6	..	48	8	6 18 3
24	64	23	5121	1646	119277	18632	1167	3 0	..	150	78	10 8 4
25	126	52	8263	2920	159971	27150	3255	2 11 1/2	..	252	112	14 2 0
26	29	14	1876	924	61025	11367	1275	3 7	..	58	53	6 0 0
27	46	23	2666	1268	98050	16717	1998	3 4 1/2	..	15	41	7 19 2
28	2	..	186	..	3842	774	82	4 0	..	5	12	0 13 0
29	1	..	45	..	476	31	6	1 3 1/2	..	..	..	..
30	7	..	529	..	11777	2035	223	3 5	8	..	43	1 8 3
31	281	90	14992	3521	295925	42708	3905	2 6	..	630	723	38 6 8
32	11	1	749	69	21529	3240	476	3 4 1/2	..	27	12	2 12 1
	2581	866	183802	59000	4039615	659493	76696	..	8	7054	2938	541 11 9
33	4	7	185	511	4122	789	100	3 1	..	..	..	....
34	..	45	..	3577	8232	509	77	..	..	..	1	0 10 0
	2585	918	183987	63088	4051969	660701	76873	..	8	7054	2939	542 1 9

* Loss.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Property.	All other Investments.		
No. 3—CALDERDALE DIST.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Barkisland	143	1214	..	261	871	285	..	766	64	1
Blackshawhead	102	1438	100	274	381	89	34	1557	17	2
Brighouse	8734	164982	5790	6800	55137	36240	50882	66891	274	3
Copley	204	911	..	127	882	8	..	954	..	4
Cragg Vale	228	3916	624	464	1280	748	236	3257	252	5
Halifax Coal	1303	895	102	385	110	624	..	276	1154	6
Industrial	12697	124539	20514	8736	64048	61311	17829	41459	4048	7
Hebden Bridge Industrial	2945	73294	7860	4259	14739	22728	12345	43777	613	8
Heptonstall	438	6204	158	767	2212	1740	..	4105	360	9
Holmfild	307	4581	807	159	1203	2053	..	3095	..	10
Coal	282	354	75	..	24	388	..	41	72	11
Illingworth	183	2001	588	53	582	1037	..	228	1072	12
Luddenden	416	5459	840	605	2252	2477	..	2725	425	13
Luddendenfoot	719	11865	2704	448	3514	5132	..	7844	550	14
Midgley	462	8565	308	858	1146	524	761	7956	308	15
Mytholmroyd	727	17433	828	1598	3987	1783	7588	8816	367	16
Peckett Well	151	2315	278	269	784	454	1379	564	100	17
Ripponden	661	10697	548	407	4122	2518	1905	6363	201	18
Siddall	361	4428	61	91	1069	1321	845	2473	107	19
Sowerby Bridge Industr'l	4525	72002	14857	2094	13955	17186	22714	48359	1257	20
Stainland & Holywell Gn.	873	21308	185	548	3053	2292	1883	16472	579	21
Todmorden	4999	138449	207	7506	33495	25501	73374	33008	850	22
Bridge End	804	31939	3	478	3799	4900	13103	13904	110	23
Wainstalls	172	2683	128	347	880	533	393	2037	196	24
Walsden	730	29332	..	1304	3284	5765	12016	12380	267	25
Retail Societies Total	42866	749804	57475	38838	216809	197637	217287	329307	13243	
Productive Societies—										
Calderdale Clog Sundries	137	1711	649	690	697	1353	..	1278	548	26
Hebden Bridge Fustian	903	34404	1277	18208	10137	20908	..	18888	10274	27
Produc. Societies Total	1040	36115	1926	18898	10834	22261	..	20166	10822	
District Total	43906	776919	59401	57736	227643	219898	217287	349473	24065	
No. 4—CHESHIRE & NORTH WALES DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bangor	384	1791	89	169	1510	532	..	715	214	1
Birkenhead	17500	136909	15142	4559	53921	69438	1472	49525	5066	2
Bromborough Pool	195	1189	..	50	1525	..	..	477	..	3
Brymbo	549	2056	3251	853	3278	1863	1489	330	340	4
Buckley	727	3752	1384	453	3818	2483	165	764	492	5
Carnarvon	233	325	..	128	524	21	..	183	..	6
Cefn	1853	11740	1769	2688	9533	7303	613	2296	734	7
Chester	5551	69727	7674	17383	27644	53122	3400	17676	330	8
Colwyn Bay	1136	9878	105	496	4531	3377	706	2677	514	9
Cynfal	97	225	692	141	444	191	..	332	184	10
Deiniolen	134	178	265	..	269	309	..	339	116	11
Dolgarrog	108	304	798	..	1183	207	..	353	171	12
Eiff Workmen's	111	862	..	210	739	22	..	604	189	13
Ellesmere Port	1722	14655	6197	1082	8267	6714	..	9413	544	14
Employes' Provident (Port Sunlight)	840	4641	208	603	4175	507	..	2232	226	15
Ewloe Place	171	1044	..	..	653	268	..	302	188	16
Ffynnon Groyw	148	1091	1196	360	699	1433	515	322	75	17
Flint and Oakenholt	876	7909	695	933	6129	4083	..	465	600	18
Garston	1543	10736	1131	556	6502	6386	458	1015	80	19
Hawarden	429	3116	1138	268	2357	2295	174	255	164	20
Holyhead	1110	3571	2189	524	3115	1690	..	2616	..	21

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Inter- est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divid- end per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	2	130	..	5900	531	49	3 0	..	..	1	0 13 6
2	1	85	..	3996	306	54	3 3	..	..	..	..
3	163	13669	6879	368110	63145	6981	3 1	..	100	155	44 16 0
4	2	125	..	6237	1182	43	3 8	..	..	2	..
5	3	266	..	8234	967	169	3 3	..	..	7	1 3 4
6	6	457	..	5100	782	..	3 4	..	..	4	..
7	243	103	20053	7239	494349	61993	4557	2 9 1/2	130	159	63 19 4
8	57	33	4705	2176	118207	2604	3 0	..	362	90	15 6 3
9	8	2	649	37	23070	2386	3 0	..	..	13	2 5 10
10	4	2	253	98	9303	1539	177	3 0	..	4	1 11 3
11	2	..	188	..	826	112	16	2 9	..	..	..
12	3	..	335	..	20565	864	45	3 0	..	5	1 10 0
13	7	1	428	72	15134	2519	224	4 0	2	9	2 3 4
14	11	2	675	158	25018	5339	571	4 0	..	20	3 13 9
15	6	1	313	88	12737	2888	322	4 0	..	8	2 9 8
16	14	8	822	360	29369	4434	662	3 0	72	27	3 14 7
17	2	..	126	..	5142	805	93	4 0	..	6	0 15 11
18	18	5	1243	277	42123	4383	521	3 5	..	8	3 7 2
19	3	..	241	..	9581	1789	172	3 6	4	4	1 16 8
20	83	36	5782	3176	197423	31102	2853	3 6	..	98	19 19 2
21	11	9	1001	380	34035	5088	826	2 7	..	9	4 9 0
22	97	65	7680	4190	180792	31240	5430	3 0	469	78	24 8 3
23	19	6	990	323	33933	6715	1217	3 4	88	22	4 3 6
24	3	..	244	..	10434	1305	133	3 7	..	9	0 17 8
25	11	4	1094	251	31657	6197	1120	3 5	119	43	3 16 9
779		396	61554	25704	1691335	254809	29070	..	1346	781	207 0 11
26	..	17	..	958	6124	1023	85	1 0	45	14	1 0 0
27	..	285	..	20026	84863	7130	1709	1 0	1021	1	10 0 0
..		302	..	20984	90987	8153	1794	..	1066	1	11 0 0
779		698	61554	46688	1782322	202962	30864	..	1066	1347	885 218 0 11
1	6	..	400	..	9200	753	65	1 8	2	1	1 19 7
2	379	91	23534	5951	437144	46769	5876	1 10	454	569	74 8 6
3	5	..	424	..	10430	1460	56	2 11	..	5	..
4	13	4	799	240	18121	1523	102	1 7	..	5	2 12 4
5	21	5	1111	338	32502	2854	164	2 0	..	..	3 16 0
6	4	..	137	..	3283	439	8	1 6	..	..	0 5 0
7	39	9	2557	747	72954	9653	499	2 6	..	21	7 16 6
8	180	37	10641	2866	177231	21611	3100	1 11	10	37	26 8 4
9	16	4	1136	470	19884	1643	359	2 0	..	3	5 0 2
10	2	..	117	..	4040	215	11	..	16	..	..
11	2	..	155	..	4463	484	5	..	..	..	0 10 5
12	4	..	304	..	5607	419	13	1 7	..	..	..
13	2	..	125	..	5000	427	10	2 0	..	..	0 11 6
14	60	16	3208	1277	53847	5466	647	..	..	37	8 6 8
15	32	10	2098	669	35260	2958	199	1 9	60	31	4 5 5
16	3	..	249	..	7243	882	34	2 6	..	..	0 12 6
17	3	1	201	89	5826	329	40	..	..	..	0 15 5
18	36	4	1809	330	39822	6015	330	2 9	..	14	3 18 3
19	37	10	2306	739	35834	3326	491	1 6	..	..	8 4 6
20	10	3	668	263	19695	2112	107	2 3	..	..	2 4 8
21	20	8	1331	268	26691	2820	151	2 0	..	1	5 5 2

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES DISTRICT—Con.									
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Leeswood	124	688	1192	134	574	905	444	145	172
Liverpool	43816	279706	33352	17467	144792	199406	2969	49884	22
Llanberis	235	462	..	..	324	80	..	1145	23
Llandudno Junction	423	1838	51	466	1184	422	..	1092	25
Llanfairfechan	223	1115	146	3	777	..	..	685	26
Llanrug	137	300	458	..	230	446	..	203	27
Mold Junction	197	913	25	56	839	23	..	268	28
New York (Penmaenm'r)	320	1227	603	200	1066	1146	..	609	29
Pant-y-Fownog	117	533	30	212	385	143	286	223	30
Penyffordd	153	320	628	5	710	100	383	289	31
Queen's Ferry	2050	20690	4427	1440	11903	6981	3874	6172	32
Rhyl	279	915	..	204	873	134	..	371	33
Rivals	43	59	..	..	86	8	..	78	34
Runcorn and Widnes	9752	136586	4466	11183	40956	40388	44702	61306	35
St. Helens	16385	73034	37235	30241	56740	50097	19456	51289	36
Sychtyn	97	857	374	22	438	650	..	181	37
Warrington	16432	142004	3246	22184	50275	53303	7882	89725	38
Whiston	856	4544	2234	723	4096	1780	598	869	39
Wrexham	2250	14862	1000	1281	8488	8095	1913	3341	40
† District Total	129306	966655	133420	117283	466472	526321	91499	300956	15946
No. 5—DEWSBURY DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Altofts	349	1957	..	300	1739	..	..	1717	1
Batley	6450	154254	1598	1801	28201	42385	49155	49897	2
Battysford (Mirfield)	350	6102	775	409	1277	1601	1656	3868	3
Beeston	200	2995	..	182	1066	594	1206	931	4
Birstall	2260	39320	1009	2123	7182	2896	9674	26909	5
Churwell	672	11493	7	703	3367	2692	4426	3689	6
Cleckheaton	5429	88295	16155	8083	39209	25663	37490	22270	7
Crigglestone	479	1672	450	861	2100	1000	400	910	8
Dewsbury	14906	357833	1907	7568	51328	81336	62033	205939	9
Drighlington	1201	19379	..	100	4958	6911	1074	9032	10
* Farnley	603	1291	..	214	1771	474	..	1504	11
Gomersal	1072	17503	..	1261	4852	2835	3344	10116	12
Grange Moor Friendly	169	3088	..	291	878	250	300	2587	13
" United	108	2065	79	154	741	625	481	631	14
Hackmondwike	9020	213634	7097	6503	33458	28109	36319	15471	15
Hopton (Upper)	151	4184	529	267	1106	600	..	3922	16
Horbury	2017	36888	4204	1208	11205	8286	11825	14168	17
Liversedge	1053	6889	24	591	4271	2827	..	2229	18
Middlestown	810	10619	385	2196	5274	3163	1247	5521	19
Mirfield Industrial	1873	35505	6048	2022	9511	7390	5813	25926	20
" Perseverance	921	10310	567	649	4087	1590	457	7187	21
Morley	7317	172428	1064	717	27983	26994	23026	105704	22
Ossett	3541	48116	6088	1415	15691	14462	800	30181	23
Ravensthorpe	576	8417	888	594	1251	1706	2884	4859	24
Wakefield Borough	2515	22883	1139	6880	5873	3000	13543	1091	25
" Industrial	7190	47332	5567	3917	28827	36875	4487	7178	26
Retail Societies Total	71432	1324452	54441	45268	289123	308953	261097	581889	22582
Distrib. Federation—									
West Yorkshire Coal Fed-	44	21760	50	901	..	..	..	23021	5565
eration									27
Productive Society—									
Dewsbury Co-op. Laundry	10	3417	1441	512	312	8776	..	1383	404
District Total	71486	1349629	55932	46681	289435	311829	261097	606893	28551

† The Clirk and District, Oswestry, and St. Martin's Societies were formerly in this district but have been transferred to District No. 10, Midland Section. * 1913 Figures.

1916, NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

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No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Pur- poses.	Charitable Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
22	3	216		5238	379	26	1 4	..	..	3	0 11 9
23	970	140	59140	13323	993664	108049	12064	1 10 1	1270	653	204 12 6
24	4	233		9621	954	22	2 1	..	..	1	1 4 4
25	9	491	..	10075	1087	74	1 10 3	..	..	1	2 3 3
26	5	262	..	5251	467	41	1 9	..	..	..	1 0 0
27	3	92	..	3126	15	..	1 0	..	..	..	..
28	8	1	378	124	7628	495	42	1 5 1	..	..	1 1 0
29	7	2	399	173	10258	883	54	1 3	..	1	1 15 1
30	3	..	179	..	5509	861	26	3 0	..	2	0 11 3
31	4	..	183	..	4968	190	10	1 2	..	..	0 13 6
32	50	10	3459	870	77660	8622	931	2 0	..	20	10 2 0
33	4	1	298	95	4740	310	41	1 1 1	..	3	1 7 10
34	2	..	18	..	953	59	2	1 8	..	..	..
35	241	56	16815	4491	335596	46847	5305	2 5 1	500	117	47 13 0
36	519	84	26176	5065	589922	75031	2810	2 6	122	94	78 10 8
37	2	..	147	..	4829	443	15	2 0	..	13	..
38	296	56	17921	4957	498402	83813	4979	3 0	689	159	80 10 2
39	23	4	1312	320	32055	4494	168	2 8	..	..	3 19 2
40	57	11	3620	890	62399	6680	651	2 0	..	56	10 10 6
3084		567	184649	44555	3685471	451837	39528	..	532	3314	1260 603 6 11
1	7	..	573	..	21807	4436	67	4 0	..	10	1 16 3
2	138	58	8346	3730	224693	33108	6251	2 4	..	539	191 31 10 0
3	6	..	403	..	11323	1894	258	2 10	..	5	1 15 7
4	4	..	252	..	8111	1242	110	2 11	..	6	1 0 10
5	39	14	2504	812	74916	10902	1407	2 8	..	127	11 13 4
6	12	3	1060	150	27561	3703	411	2 6	..	15	2 3 4 2
7	126	40	8812	2993	214976	31673	3477	2 7 1	..	500	136 27 6 10
8	12	1	774	93	21801	3116	80	3 0	..	..	14 2 8 8
9	277	93	20320	4972	419520	69208	14229	2 7 1	..	1169	162 74 11 8
10	17	8	1338	270	41990	6215	753	2 7 1	..	..	41 6 0 6
11	14	..	800	..	22470	3812	59	3 3	..	..	..
12	19	4	1361	233	38267	6318	699	2 11 1	..	..	36 5 10 0
13	2	..	286	..	9325	1501	125	3 0	..	..	10 0 16 7
14	2	..	148	..	5896	1032	83	3 1 1	..	..	1
15	157	52	12489	4005	300689	51579	8333	2 10 1	..	568	366 45 9 8
16	1	1	156	71	7660	1500	172	3 4 1	..	..	5 0 15 0
17	45	14	3140	880	85337	12873	1415	2 9 1	..	118	103 10 0 5
18	18	..	1222	..	30764	4668	319	..	..	..	5 5 3
19	21	7	1539	461	42152	5782	415	2 9	..	15	8 3 17 0
20	45	22	3136	1073	76094	11389	1429	2 9	..	10	54 9 15 0
21	15	..	988	..	29933	5152	405	3 2 1	..	..	20 4 8 9
22	143	60	10432	4733	289149	39681	6368	2 3	..	745	126 41 4 0
23	55	21	4331	1699	116634	19557	1893	2 9	..	..	65 17 17 4
24	6	..	381	..	15118	2776	321	3 0	..	..	14 2 12 1
25	41	2	2352	177	76782	19778	1051	2 9	..	..	..
26	146	42	9339	2236	234167	25493	1676	2 3	..	376	54 33 7 7
1351		434	96482	28588	2448144	369388	51806	..	..	4188	1501 342 6 6
27	1	..	109	..	74517	2697	988	0 5 1	..	..	0 5 0
28	..	43	..	2258	4578	530	170	0 9	..	..	2 0 5 0
1352		477	96591	30846	2527239	372615	52964	..	..	4188	1503 342 16 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 6—EAST YORKSHIRE DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Beverley	848	4208	681	602	3191	1179	..	1873	329
aCastleford and Allerton ..	4816	34296	..	3403	9298	193	..	42115	..
„ Industrial	5730	41896	3801	4384	25226	18462	6056	7134	4473
dDriffield	340	2513	134	225	1111	1067	..	517	480
Esrick	148	549	563	406	670	21	..	1689	321
Hull	26232	179008	39680	7746	80826	128230	6634	44701	9220
Kippax	1190	9404	874	931	4842	3656	..	4565	833
Market Weighton	720	5493	341	352	2792	1250	917	1521	729
Pocklington	580	1715	..	518	2858	235	..	1052	859
aRiccail	80	78	5	136	316	23	..	324	..
Scarborough	2047	9896	4938	167	4838	10436	652	2024	628
Selby	860	8371	673	459	2706	2111	961	5068	376
Tadcaster	837	5806	1436	675	3733	3632	1047	826	586
Wetherby	621	4256	458	327	2853	2077	..	869	699
York	12200	157578	15226	6588	46233	61290	4125	92182	155
Retail Societies Total	57249	465157	68810	26919	191493	233862	20392	206360	19688
Productive Society—									
Hull Printers	65	2284	2506	2222	839	5812	..	461	650
District Total	57314	467441	71316	29141	192332	239674	20392	206821	20338
No. 7—HUDDERSFIELD DIS.									
Retail Distrib. Societies ..									
Brockholes	411	7771	697	394	2236	1826	1249	4916	382
Central Working Men's (Golcar)	500	7757	665	258	2237	3060	1220	3544	813
Close Hill	971	24817	1002	2785	4485	4498	11615	10849	826
Cowms, Lepton	228	2073	60	38	554	146	..	2275	35
Crosland Moor	1153	20095	260	1143	4836	3135	3058	14157	1308
Dogley Bar	200	2937	279	305	1251	628	..	2199	224
Emley	459	4931	241	416	3839	810	39	2233	656
Flockton	260	2432	1038	602	1627	1129	725	1176	952
Golcar	1057	41477	3410	1504	5540	4196	4067	39047	370
Hepworth	666	19209	2461	699	5624	2617	1019	14871	1506
Highburton	310	3875	..	378	1751	532	..	2961	381
Hillhouse	3051	27266	..	1052	8847	11760	3605	10729	692
Hill Top (Paddock)	720	9509	250	662	2288	785	130	9078	680
Hinchcliffe Mill	1043	9888	50	1150	5083	1800	600	6231	948
Honley	1266	26262	3464	1565	5982	8891	5688	20430	484
Huddersfield	18942	241914	25027	13081	82391	80400	36776	113793	1405
Junction House (Slaithwaite)	284	2459	..	..	1394	630	..	1500	431
Kirkburton	316	4638	..	413	1398	690	696	3427	343
Kirkheaton	310	8802	..	514	1558	1263	3136	4597	643
Lane Dyehouse	480	7570	129	265	2436	1739	3230	2003	281
Lepton Field	173	2117	..	145	656	458	..	1836	92
„ Town Bottom	121	576	..	270	707	..	..	842	77
Linthwaite	959	15281	1445	339	3588	2442	5497	7175	1309
Longwood	786	14612	863	618	5328	3287	5376	5796	581
Marsden Equitable	1038	21185	9963	625	6889	8558	12426	7104	1198
Meltham Industrial	1207	34989	4645	1423	9488	5566	5223	26831	1532
„ Mills Provident	205	3072	..	379	660	..	..	3301	352
Milnsbridge	1890	18317	751	265	6222	6242	285	10440	1150
Netherthong	296	6955	691	242	1979	2084	479	3978	372
Nettleton	199	1313	142	177	507	1056	..	504	95
Parkgate and Berry Brow ..	1032	23898	1267	1923	4482	2681	10130	13709	815
Scapegoat Hill	282	5499	1976	431	1414	1106	50	5884	424
Seissett	1238	10676	539	67	4086	4628	2093	3911	812
Sheepridge	416	7368	189	447	2135	1579	1141	4272	282

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	17	1053	..	19280	1576	187	1 4	..	31	8	3 19 2
2	..	4917	..	140714	32945	1517	..	..	..	..	..
3	134	7143	2140	220283	29981	1870	2 7 1	..	300	41	22 18 0
4	7	364	..	6602	397	127	1 0	2	6	1	1 16 3
5	4	227	..	12170	730	25	2 6	..	..	..	0 14 5
6	617	132	36444	8725	630427	47639	8170	1 2 1	951	136	120 6 6
7	34	9	1808	373	61082	6909	367	2 3	..	16	5 12 0
8	17	..	940	..	22508	1802	236	1 9	..	11	3 7 7
9	15	..	777	..	30605	1429	70	1 11	..	1	2 4 4
10	..	..	75	..	1636	32	3	..	..	..	..
11	39	7	2207	451	36624	3083	401	1 4 1	61	6	10 1 7
12	15	..	967	..	24607	2766	335	1 11	..	9	4 2 1
13	20	6	1034	317	26697	2782	277	2 6	8	6	4 5 10
14	8	1	583	81	15104	1495	193	1 10 1	..	15	3 2 1
15	321	94	20175	7438	354981	45054	7616	2 0	1205	559	60 16 2
	1248	281	78714	19525	1603320	178620	21394	..	1207	1916	243 6 0
16	..	27	..	1704	3744	479	115	..	43	15	0 10 6
	1248	308	78714	21229	1607064	179099	21509	..	1250	1931	243 16 6
1	7	1	464	93	17407	2631	297	2 8 1	..	6	3 2 1 8
2	6	2	440	173	18992	3262	366	3 6	..	4	..
3	16	2	1217	67	42197	6816	1048	2 10 1	..	13	5 0 0
4	2	..	267	..	8647	1547	82	3 6 1	..	3	..
5	20	7	1665	581	50188	7969	706	2 10 1	..	20	5 10 6
6	3	..	227	..	7305	1333	116	3 4 1	..	3	1 0 0
7	8	1	709	29	22167	2642	207	2 9	..	3	2 7 6
8	6	2	293	93	15724	2309	98	3 0	..	1	..
9	12	7	1521	500	49153	8894	1792	3 6	..	21	5 3 6
10	18	2	1079	104	41706	5150	626	2 6	..	10	3 8 11
11	8	..	399	..	14281	2538	151	3 5	..	2	..
12	58	10	4163	779	91085	14452	1336	3 0	..	26	15 10 2
13	8	..	673	..	24596	4892	459	3 7	..	8	3 12 9
14	22	..	1358	..	38273	6425	471	3 0	..	37	5 7 4
15	30	7	1901	575	51796	6121	956	2 4	..	41	6 10 6
16	359	286	31168	15930	719935	108761	9751	2 10	..	923	94 3 4
17	5	..	412	..	11173	2050	121	4 3	..	..	..
18	3	..	281	..	13687	2364	161	3 3	..	5	1 12 6
19	5	2	365	159	16350	2342	330	3 3 1	..	5	1 11 4
20	10	1	725	111	16444	2646	313	2 10 1	..	18	2 8 9
21	3	..	216	..	7990	1340	86	3 2	..	..	0 17 8
22	2	..	133	..	6387	1203	28	3 8	..	2	..
23	15	5	1151	316	34635	5096	538	3 4	..	10	5 0 6
24	22	6	1045	328	36614	5170	584	2 7	..	18	3 18 4
25	26	16	1942	778	52331	5702	834	2 6	..	11	5 1 0
26	24	13	1927	630	68428	11352	1408	3 1	..	9	6 5 2
27	2	..	164	..	7266	1513	126	3 9	..	3	1 0 1
28	28	13	1974	636	68120	10975	677	3 4	..	5	8 15 10
29	6	2	378	64	12850	1510	244	2 7	..	7	1 9 8
30	2	..	194	..	7055	1185	65	3 2	..	2	..
31	19	6	1578	223	46590	7429	917	3 0	..	17	5 2 10
32	6	1	383	151	15675	2122	221	3 0	..	7	1 7 8
33	16	5	1229	242	45754	4898	513	2 6	..	5	6 6 2
34	5	..	388	..	14803	2712	315	3 1	..	5	2 3 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£.
HUDDERSFIELD DIST.—Con									
Shelley	402	6495	204	324	1765	1460	..	5082	565 35
Shepley	501	9796	761	376	2360	905	2956	6218	501 36
Skelmanthorpe	558	13573	230	597	5437	3282	744	6598	831 37
Slaithwaite	3000	56208	27982	3874	10036	15598	3920	71442	966 38
South Crosland & Netherton	575	10520	..	792	4706	2405	1323	4686	691 39
Wooldale	649	18375	1538	914	2916	2529	3752	13471	534 40
Retail Societies Total	48148	756507	93119	41452	221618	196401	132247	473186	26589
Distrib. Federations									
Holmfirth Boot and Shoe	h 4	900	35	165	1055	107	..	106	37 41
Scarwood Coal	h 8	1600	..	175	272	15	1851	2115	1627 42
Distrib. Federations Total	12	2500	35	340	1327	122	1851	2221	1664
Productive Societies—									
Colne Valley Co-op. Baky	h 7	1850	1266	..	266	1642	..	271	605 43
Wm. Thomson and Sons.	422	14867	20247	4861	25525	661	..	3063	15214 44
Produc. Societies Total	429	16717	21513	4861	25791	2303	..	3334	15819
District Total	48589	775724	114667	46653	248736	198826	134098	478741	44022
No. 8.—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE, AND DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Burslem	15256	99550	4660	10051	54802	56855	289	27208	2500 1
Butt Lane	2331	22609	10077	1921	14524	7630	7539	8643	2342 2
Tongleton	4140	48828	12465	2087	12294	12405	4295	39330	3815 3
Crewe Friendly	12502	210739	20209	23093	59524	68094	63063	64594	23878 4
Disley	353	7464	844	769	850	1033	2842	4556	478 5
Dove Holes	388	4293	870	670	1111	476	146	4323	645 6
Great Rocks	191	2373	99	402	1383	1091	..	352	310 7
Hazel Grove	1308	24412	1560	1459	4454	7307	6484	10569	1515 8
Leek and Moorlands	4174	40497	6601	1847	18073	19589	4217	10840	2589 9
Macclesfield	7460	98208	36688	3487	29411	22603	35528	59766	3887 10
Malkins Bank	203	2304	..	202	551	100	300	1763	150 11
Peak Forest	83	733	..	538	736	8	..	742	366 12
Poynton and Worth	570	22014	24	875	2658	2552	2404	16103	448 13
Sandbach	2366	34764	3805	809	11764	13160	3258	14954	2625 14
Silverdale	6040	68327	322	8316	20758	13447	7135	40139	4200 15
Stockport	12383	187406	5684	3418	51247	59649	18425	92400	5041 16
Great Moor	433	5471	615	427	1699	1961	789	2442	250 17
Styal	271	1597	..	467	712	120	..	1351	220 18
Whitehough	72	590	2	5	191	180	..	246	111 19
Winnington, Northwich.									
and District	4305	39908	20605	4234	16494	22080	16839	15399	1019 20
Winsford	3611	39740	3301	3465	13068	15963	5584	15159	4208 21
Woodley	723	8274	1501	473	2865	2244	3087	2948	500 22
Youlgrave	530	4095	103	2550	2498	1204	141	2768	1000 23
Retail Societies Total	79713	974187	139035	71565	321667	329751	182455	436565	62097
Productive Societies—									
Leek Silk Twist Manuf'g	119	8809	8571	2489	9782	4074	..	4603	10751 24
Macclesfield Silk Manuf'g	266	8668	10974	..	8800	4397	..	1463	6362 25
Nantwich Boot and Shoe	112	793	617	339	969	1066	..	7	492 26
Produc. Societies Total	497	18270	20162	2828	19551	9537	..	6073	17605
District Total	80210	992457	150197	74393	341218	339288	182455	442638	79702

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
35	7	1	392	39	18318	2828	235	3 0	..	..	10	2 2 3
36	7	3	606	143	22431	3020	363	2 6	..	..	20	2 11 0
37	12	1	785	32	28640	3874	536	2 4	..	..	6	2 17 2
38	66	43	4948	2504	160158	24891	2192	3 4	..	..	36	15 7 0
39	12	7	812	390	29097	4184	522	2 8	..	..	6	2 18 0
40	15	4	1094	239	31769	4127	658	2 10	..	18	8	3 4 8
	896	456	70666	25909	1986017	300275	30449	..	..	1068	638	231 17 3
41	3	4	233	495	2928	271	36	1 6	..	..	1	0 10 0
42	2	..	200	..	24220	3938	80	3 4	..	..	1	0 5 0
	5	4	433	495	27148	4209	116	..	..	..	2	0 15 0
43	..	11	..	771	6275	195	..	..	..	..	..	0 5 0
44	..	123	..	10520	59887	63	740	1 0	..	..	40	3 5 0
	..	134	..	11291	66162	258	740	..	..	..	40	3 10 0
	901	594	71099	37695	2079327	304742	31305	..	..	1068	680	236 2 3
1	373	82	19579	5545	467041	47155	4423	1 9	..	704	153	66 10 0
2	49	11	3142	829	80034	10596	991	2 4	..	42	137	10 14 8
3	78	26	5811	2125	160688	25673	2188	2 11	..	352	88	20 1 5
4	371	137	24725	13715	493517	65182	7467	2 4	..	..	2978	64 0 0
5	8	..	447	..	16675	2549	250	2 8	..	34	17	1 15 1
6	4	..	358	..	13530	1673	145	2 4	..	26	3	2 0 5
7	3	..	243	..	5789	766	102	2 2	..	..	3	1 0 10
8	28	7	2086	404	49870	7587	944	2 10	..	18	67	6 14 6
9	82	24	5243	1833	118557	16396	1719	2 6	..	..	351	18 8 10
10	151	68	10190	4108	242371	32498	3633	2 6	..	400	165	36 19 4
11	3	1	129	73	6866	1291	98	3 7	..	..	3	..
12	3	..	138	..	5601	429	33	2 6	..	..	..	..
13	15	2	985	160	31018	4897	824	2 10	..	..	27	2 17 3
14	58	22	3337	1786	85075	10182	1489	2 1	..	198	97	12 2 8
15	122	21	5752	1878	183358	28609	2863	2 10	..	50	77	29 13 3
16	308	40	19000	3130	450855	67594	7073	2 6	..	445	75	58 17 11
17	11	2	691	26	16675	1915	196	2 2	..	..	6	2 7 3
18	8	2	321	126	7885	1133	69	2 9	..	..	7	1 8 8
19	1	..	60	..	809	55	19	1 0	..	..	..	..
20	134	24	6886	2154	118811	14933	1581	2 3	..	115	375	21 17 0
21	86	18	5496	1463	138468	21607	1703	3 0	176	..	294	17 13 3
22	13	..	839	..	23312	3872	296	3 0	..	7	5	..
23	14	..	695	..	15823	1147	180	2 0	..	..	15	2 15 10
	1923	487	116153	39355	2733228	367739	38486	..	176	2391	4943	381 11 7
24	..	110	..	8148	49913	4634	441	..	700	..	49	2 0 0
25	..	108	..	7511	26129	499	..	..	..	7	..	2 0 0
26	..	28	..	1694	4855	290	20	1 0	..	..	2	1 1 0
	..	246	..	16753	80927	5423	461	..	700	7	51	5 1 0
	1923	733	116153	56108	2814155	373162	38947	..	876	2398	4994	386 12 7

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					Owing to the Society for Goods.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	House Property.	All other Investments.	
No. 9—MANCHESTER DIS.—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Beswick	16004	150064	23520	9463	41062	78861	2949	92376	3500	1
Blackley	6993	115622	1145	5110	28431	38291	28443	30139	2268	2
Broadbottom	307	1875	..	15	442	509	..	966	134	3
Chisworth	173	1249	..	325	785	8	..	962	197	4
Clifton	638	14657	1510	641	4522	4036	4338	5513	509	5
Compstall	3518	59436	12357	4795	12440	15659	14859	41705	1440	6
Denton and Haughton ..	1673	31537	4146	1968	8393	7934	4065	20261	1584	7
Droylsden	7405	101634	9030	8967	43133	50580	18305	20860	502	8
Eccles	19031	346773	32081	14125	62561	105332	119421	131807	8513	9
Failsworth	11957	194666	19032	10131	47184	39217	58545	103529	378	10
Glossop Dale	3389	76455	7197	4784	8095	11708	15847	57779	149	11
Hadfield	1719	48156	6253	1655	5773	5455	4972	43180	475	12
Haughton Green	542	4591	1538	100	2076	721	1482	2908	339	13
Hayfield	560	6857	1555	619	2341	1000	1373	5198	339	14
Hollingworth	781	12027	..	292	2973	2657	2386	4753	556	15
Hyde	3454	53120	10008	2011	13646	13921	15314	28773	1313	16
Manchester and Salford ..	21143	262706	12375	8290	47875	87260	53731	119223	3567	17
New Mills	2878	60497	2756	3293	10101	11978	20786	27116	2268	18
New Moston	680	7983	364	859	1782	2668	783	5584	..	19
Pendleton	31333	465330	16353	26080	91101	125071	84310	253120	977	20
Prestwich	5256	79649	40569	2493	20439	33938	68465	8059	1580	21
Rhodes	1232	24010	959	559	4322	2001	9055	10268	1293	22
Roe Green—Worsley	218	9374	1607	352	1127	1036	3188	6667	56	23
Swinton—Industrial	759	8418	1175	833	4343	3474	1943	1754	568	24
Moorside	924	12325	1918	498	3083	3417	4228	4940	440	25
Whaley Bridge & Buxton ..	2435	40492	6855	1964	10646	6469	11182	26376	2070	26
Whitefield and Unsworth	1089	18852	66	450	3312	4933	4802	7571	194	27
Retail Societies Total	140092	2208355	214369	110672	483788	658164	556772	1070387	35209	
Distrib. Federation—										
Hadfield & Hol'ngw'th C ^y	h2	1000	..	497	190	110	..	1420	116	28
Productive Societies—										
Co-op. Sundries Manufac-										
turing (Droylsden)	507	22143	6798	2759	20736	12169	..	1774	5694	29
Eccles Manufacturing	228	13974	7363	3222	11759	11684	..	1083	2607	30
Hyde Co-op. Laundry	7	3493	800	..	588	3395	..	620	48	31
M'chester & Dist. Laundry	15	20670	8369	..	1508	29519	..	253	1425	32
Manchester—Newspaper ..	353	11698	5121	1044	4070	8999	..	3114	3563	33
Printing ..	702	22914	..	16885	23097	13670	..	10313	13309	34
Produc. Societies Total	1812	95192	28451	23910	61848	79436	..	17157	26646	
District Total	147906	2304547	242820	135079	545826	737710	556772	1088964	61971	
No. 10—NORTH-EAST LAN-										
CASHIRE DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Accrington and Church ..	9704	304174	44973	7849	54920	100479	165765	51415	..	1
Provident ..	702	4948	6165	27	5227	6647	885	464	..	2
Barnoldswick	1778	28138	7222	1025	11339	16163	10326	3729	767	3
Barrowford Industrial ...	662	8643	1831	742	2526	2344	1772	5504	227	4
Billington and Whalley ..	718	16500	3459	1942	4175	8610	2981	6958	572	5
Blackburn—Daisyfield ...	4159	86542	5347	2216	14966	29300	37261	15725	2323	6
Excelsior ..	380	3091	..	26	847	486	1607	927	500	7
Grimshaw P ..	4819	58280	250	3103	9706	19551	16080	21963	..	8
Industrial ..	4334	61037	11725	2051	16650	33025	23308	4972	2219	9
Livesey	461	4786	341	370	1475	1960	2055	345	446	10
Brierfield	1446	21174	12676	1044	10523	9846	9850	6155	361	11
Burnley	18434	255029	14259	9642	105377	93135	84836	37586	2749	12
Clayton-le-Moors	2554	57794	38059	3268	8776	7345	63372	22591	661	13
Clitheroe	1753	22451	6371	2486	9553	16426	3466	5399	827	14
Colne	6341	99684	12792	3542	38619	48323	35074	11874	1468	15

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	297	51	22991	4634	478734	70936	5932	3 0	534	277	168	....
2	176	30	10882	3929	210275	34221	4332	2 10	..	714	35	35 19 6
3	4	..	230	..	3799	403	46	2 0	..	..	1	....
4	3	..	218	..	6085	771	43	2 7½	..	..	..	....
5	16	6	1181	371	29649	5178	698	3 0	..	..	22	3 0 10
6	74	15	5335	1227	118683	21159	2266	3 0½	..	180	97	17 9 3
7	47	6	2866	533	72436	10696	1214	2 10	..	20	57	8 3 0
8	193	52	12760	3244	263371	40635	3993	2 10½	..	146	270	37 11 4
9	589	110	39403	9116	690000	109602	14719	2 9	..	2347	270	97 1 7
10	276	66	22371	6116	404762	64347	7906	2 9	..	804	174	58 6 8
11	68	22	4782	1806	131947	20911	2909	2 10½	..	267	148	17 8 0
12	36	16	2776	1027	70558	11480	1801	3 0	..	20	58	8 12 5
13	16	4	978	206	25261	3973	170	3 2	..	..	7	2 13 4
14	13	1	796	113	17553	2692	257	2 8½	..	..	14	12 15 8
15	14	6	1403	372	29493	4024	460	2 9	..	..	45	4 1 4
16	72	27	5530	1367	114921	17288	2102	2 5½	..	..	171	17 8 0
17	428	103	29369	6724	535860	75756	10003	3 0	204	884	164	106 14 0
18	64	11	4260	802	82305	13529	1972	2 10½	..	..	178	122 14 5 6
19	15	1	1133	155	23527	3574	284	3 0	..	..	78	3 5 4
20	809	144	62592	13306	999164	162841	19115	3 0	..	145	481	157 3 4
21	102	36	7050	2679	151665	20494	3050	2 7½	..	..	262	36 25 3 4
22	20	7	1202	627	41013	4655	920	2 3	..	..	28	5 18 10
23	5	3	347	275	10443	1972	369	3 0	..	37	8	1 2 1
24	22	3	1260	221	29186	4486	370	3 0	16	..	4	3 13 0
25	18	7	1126	461	30403	5015	465	3 0	..	..	19	4 10 0
26	70	19	4188	951	104804	15428	1535	2 8	..	213	28	11 18 5
27	21	3	1353	136	33136	4731	738	2 7½	..	..	22	5 11 10
	3468	749	248382	60398	4709033	730797	87669	..	754	6802	2701	650 6 7
28	6	..	456	..	16715	1967	50	2 9	..	..	5	....
29	..	150	..	9383	97492	6318	1576	0 9	932	..	64	5 0 0
30	..	90	..	5553	30009	1236	726	..	..	..	20	1 15 0
31	..	68	..	3041	7061	415	141	2 2½	..	..	..	0 5 0
32	..	342	..	11692	26090	2862	1040	1 8½	..	..	..	1 0 0
33	8	55	2159	4460	26748	415	487	..	..	..	24	0 15 0
34	49	405	5864	33841	143543	15192	1141	..	1404	..	400	12 10 0
	57	1110	8023	67970	330943	26438	5111	..	2336	..	508	21 5 0
	3531	1859	256861	128368	5056691	759202	92830	..	3090	6802	3209	671 11 7
1	215	125	12406	11653	357505	60948	12057	2 10	..	707	243	50 7 4
2	14	2	1083	38	18123	2013	238	2 2	..	..	6	3 9 7
3	33	22	2648	1378	70349	8088	1245	2 4½	..	77	14	9 5 5
4	10	5	667	293	20048	3196	309	2 11½	..	71	7	3 3 10
5	19	7	1141	551	27977	4173	609	2 6	..	44	14	3 12 11
6	86	28	7059	2391	136434	19568	3974	2 3½	..	..	79	22 6 4
7	5	..	370	..	15089	3503	143	4 4½	..	..	8	....
8	93	51	6737	2900	150811	19237	2815	2 2½	..	..	56	22 5 0
9	109	35	6604	2233	132266	17056	3010	2 3½	..	..	61	22 9 2
10	14	..	807	..	18227	2369	224	2 5	..	..	3	2 7 11
11	24	22	2072	1643	49816	6572	810	2 7	..	136	25	7 7 11
12	340	267	23973	14582	561348	85463	9832	2 10	..	1828	166	95 10 3
13	29	27	2659	1487	83379	15102	2230	3 0	..	288	56	12 15 8
14	44	8	2430	597	58232	8127	874	3 0	..	104	60	9 3 0
15	128	86	10375	5546	229997	30188	3806	2 6	..	337	66	32 0 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Property.	All other Investments.		
NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT—Con.										
Darwen Industrial	8872	369371	11580	11457	26557	58183	223712	95617	368	16
Provident	1900	20144	4754	1202	6901	14271	..	8786	..	17
Earby	1061	20617	1535	1287	9742	4699	2702	10063	329	18
Great Harwood	3569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Higham	142	1626	..	122	560	274	150	778	..	20
Hoddlesden	266	8349	2730	..	2946	1502	4357	3529	244	21
Lr. Darwen—Excelsior ..	209	3579	1273	29	569	1454	2077	1147	..	22
Fore Street	270	5612	3838	250	1163	4931	375	3664	..	23
Low Moor—Nelson Street	324	3259	..	228	1099	..	5	3159	333	24
Union Street	124	777	..	44	512	..	..	569	183	25
Nelson	9740	182709	23171	8298	46761	62556	80796	44706	1925	26
Oswaldtwistle	1816	53640	8058	2287	5095	4753	40559	16061	764	27
Padiham	2800	23568	4031	1168	9637	14286	4460	4280	563	28
Rishton	1540	30469	26103	1135	5845	11345	26846	26480	..	29
Sabden Industrial	331	4602	1333	437	1255	314	192	4961	74	30
Trawden	389	3053	2503	460	1453	1924	1070	2139	135	31
Wheatley Lane	147	3619	182	244	682	641	1053	2212	44	32
Winewall	306	4516	52	312	1691	1343	428	1814	137	33
Retail Societies Total	91927	1780605	257903	68249	417235	576116	847420	424893	18036	..
Productive Societies— Burnley Self-Help Manu North-East Lancashire Laundries	313 13	8759 4509	18044 2250	.. 70	12170 519	11548 6770	56 ..	312 250	5133 54	34 35
Produce Societies Total	326	13268	20294	70	12689	18318	56	502	5187	..
District Total	92253	1793873	278197	68319	429924	594434	847476	425455	23223	..
No. 11—NORTH LANCASHIRE DISTRICT.										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bamber Bridge	823	5822	2529	246	2761	4236	706	3057	329	1
Bentham	289	4492	124	157	1509	1287	388	1903	92	2
Blackpool	11426	190989	7268	7837	43875	57703	10847	109510	1737	3
Fleetwood	3217	32548	4801	1168	14033	10399	10035	7283	..	4
Fylde—Kirkham	822	21641	3739	2291	5197	3941	2719	16687	948	5
Gresgion Lane	119	1501	289	154	642	627	673	350	97	6
Higher Walton	200	2799	..	103	660	..	..	2778	..	7
Lancaster	13157	226202	10367	11858	41364	54627	49057	125910	1799	8
Leyland and Farington ..	1975	35315	4634	1295	9918	6381	8688	18800	..	9
Longridge	1384	26597	2619	1421	6805	5154	5158	17435	..	10
Preston	27084	256846	29510	26457	73784	77566	113831	110319	1480	11
Ribchester	196	3152	186	17	990	715	1100	858	78	12
Southport	2098	18231	2301	2393	9558	7280	4573	4760	271	13
Walmer Bridge	424	3651	..	280	737	1658	250	2039	..	14
Retail Societies Total	63214	859786	68367	55737	211833	231574	208125	421680	68311	..
Productive Society— Blackpool Union Printers ..	139	1124	1033	169	417	989	..	411	730	15
District Total	63353	860910	69400	55906	212250	232563	208125	422100	7561	..
No. 12—NORTH LONSDALE DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Ambleside	381	2363	162	184	1347	1147	..	507	340	1
Barrow-in-Furness	14856	223274	8761	14375	61748	71393	10934	130527	1329	2
Broughton-in-Furness ..	178	1764	189	150	226	333	1170	391	92	3
Carnforth	1993	38053	2042	2017	11270	11073	11805	11845	1506	4
Coniston	257	2642	61	24	568	1035	..	954	346	5
Dalton-in-Furness	3025	64268	..	3068	18494	13019	6951	36347	1168	6

* Six Months' Trading, now amalgamated with Low Moor—Nelson Street.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	£	£	£	s. d.	£	Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
16	169	64	9934	4905	256214	53708	14396	3 0	685	577	224 46 6 4
17	..	..	2587	..	34537	4806	712	..	..	..	5 6 2
18	19	9	1224	858	39097	6923	778	3 2	..	8	18 10 5
19	97	89	6867	3261	..	..	..	2 10	..	..	15 0 2
20	2	..	161	..	4434	542	53	2 6 1	..	3	1 9 11
21	8	..	502	..	18451	3024	340	3 0	..	1	..
22	4	..	273	..	7868	1491	184	4 0	..	..	..
23	3	..	257	..	9796	1447	232	3 1 1	1	..	1 7 9
24	4	..	283	..	9511	1952	142	4 5	..	7	1 3 5
25	2	..	60	..	1909	404	20	..	..	..	0 11 0
26	197	187	16089	14535	371499	48503	6782	2 7 1	1114	64	48 17 5
27	36	21	2561	1573	68649	12339	2168	2 8 1	..	139	9 7 6
28	47	29	3130	2349	79157	11390	955	2 10	..	267	37 14 11 8
29	37	22	2762	1296	67827	10972	1523	3 0	..	45	7 13 8
30	5	..	378	..	10442	1509	182	2 8	..	6	1 15 1
31	7	3	549	213	12915	1685	122	3 0	2	1	2 0 0
32	3	..	230	..	5917	786	134	2 7	..	2	0 15 5
33	5	4	470	162	11858	1334	166	2 6	..	16	2 1 10 2
	1806	1123	129348	76734	2940082	449318	71065	..	685	5708	1308 472 9 5
34	4	88	1042	6091	68734	1887	219	..	..	..	2 10 0
35	..	60	..	3181	6690	747	225	0 10	..	..	0 5 0
	4	148	1042	9272	75424	2634	444	..	..	..	2 15 0
	1810	1271	130390	86006	3015506	451952	71509	..	685	5708	1308 475 4 5
1	18	1	1188	104	22882	3609	224	2 9	..	4	4 1 3
2	5	..	557	..	8533	945	195	2 6	..	1	1 10 2
3	190	145	10853	11283	298050	38257	6638	2 0	..	425	55 5 6
4	70	18	4720	1371	87597	10000	1429	2 1	..	214	16 3 8
5	20	5	1456	359	35263	5939	987	2 1 1 1	..	64	4 2 4
6	2	..	187	..	5216	799	55	2 1 1 1	..	..	0 12 7
7	3	..	277	..	9541	1633	133	3 6	..	..	1 0 8
8	231	61	13871	4111	330821	52744	8130	2 10 1	..	500	63 10 0
9	37	16	2679	1080	61378	9770	1159	2 10 1	..	16	9 11 10
10	28	15	1991	836	43340	5968	1011	2 6	..	124	7 0 9
11	420	140	28354	11173	661299	97040	9040	3 0	..	1000	135 6 6
12	3	..	272	..	5789	762	134	2 9 1	..	2	1 0 8
13	50	5	3075	459	58808	7555	735	2 6	..	25	9 4 0
14	7	..	416	..	12550	1850	160	3 0	..	..	2 2 0
	1084	406	69896	30776	1641067	236871	30930	..	..	2352	2231 310 12 0
15	..	16	..	1196	2917	e16	53	..	..	..	1 5 0
	1084	422	69896	31972	1643984	†236871	30983	..	..	2352	2231 311 17 0
1	12	2	557	118	8864	717	129	1 5	..	..	1 19 4
2	377	127	25523	9632	662180	101672	10001	2 6	..	30	74 9 0
3	3	..	148	..	2273	413	84	3 0	3	..	..
4	48	11	3335	624	60288	8727	1340	2 6	..	90	10 0 0
5	5	..	256	..	5320	541	107	2 0	..	..	..
6	63	34	4068	2064	138004	20334	2756	2 2	..	..	14 12 8

† Before deducting the loss of £16. e Loss.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
NORTH LONSDALE DIS—Con.									
Hawkshead	308	3110	251	245	1568	1396	102	462	744
Kendal	2748	27183	108	1289	10474	11267	1354	6472	770
Kirkby-in-Furness	504	11674	782	577	4334	3699	2397	3015	458
Langdale	325	4920	279	242	1660	1108	293	2508	600
Leven Valley	214	3188	1183	84	1717	407	1994	381	241
Lower Holker	223	2952		121	1406	655	505	575	231
Millom	2106	40979	252	2045	12045	7357	2494	23911	1177
Sedbergh (New)	148	609	11	174	510	13		319	53
Swarthmoor & Ulverston	2604	54988	280	3607	14207	14223	11886	21368	1158
Windermere	289	2430	75	33	737	858		1075	269
Retail Societies Total	30159	484397	15336	28835	142911	139003	51885	241557	10482
Supply Association—Furness and South Cumberland									
	349	1995		1140	1757	101	169	1372	2830
District Total....	30508	486392	15336	29975	144668	139104	52054	242929	13312
No. 13—OLDHAM DIST.—Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Ashton-under-Lyne	5801	126530	5992	13071	31271	38424	45464	37736	1068
Crompton (Shaw)	3464	41190	16294	958	12145	24273	22268	5336	174
Delph	745	21396	1573	352	3453	1937	8752	9970	576
Diggle	323	6830	3386	349	2079	2650	3903	2554	238
Dobcross	168	1576	166	65	883			1351	120
Grasscroft	359	5213	3293	247	1604	1947	1437	4082	411
Greenfield	825	23868	8038	520	2822	3350	19807	8415	156
Higher Hurst	1405	17647	13348	2840	5778	6926	4539	19895	322
Hurst Brook	983	8563	9573	1113	3834	6013	2509	8793	
Junction—Delph	258	3929	50	170	1675	734		2370	375
Middleton and Tonge	4099	95495	11410	8953	17204	19995	29640	56708	1606
Mossley	3144	76888	7084	5748	9907	7123	9939	69316	362
Oldham Equitable	14482	288962	20666	21649	54319	63872	87957	140232	210
Industrial	20894	361802	31391	22845	62329	38713	132520	220624	
Royton	2394	32639	5306	651	9744	12793	12756	9494	91
Stalybridge	4643	92496	4027	2940	15385	17267	10764	64661	2
Uppermill	1318	33593	860	1442	5044	3856	3431	26214	901
Waterloo	893	21098	1375	1375	3923	6304	8678	9437	638
Retail Societies Total	66198	1259715	146347	85288	243399	255847	401364	697188	7250
Productive Society—Delph Woollen Manuf'g.									
	83	2291	595	51	1193	1728	90	248	642
District Total....	66281	1262006	146942	85339	244592	257575	404454	697436	7892
No. 14—ROCHDALE DIST.—Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bagslate	213	2990	2474	375	971	243	2012	2757	364
Brookbottoms	14100	355754	3764	26454	45066	43620	220125	110502	270
Bury	172	1788	221	199	537	778		1326	65
Firgrove	475	6898	875	2787	1062	260	286	9706	218
Healey	5606	89149	1147	7282	26453	16733	18652	43457	
Heywood	86	750		117	406	503		162	49
Lane Bottom	2664	44768	3720	2067	19305	14110	11744	13625	1097
Littleborough	312	2540	329	554	1045	1182		1306	542
Millgate	292	2846	641	291	1005	903	1213	1153	85
Milnrow	833	7075	340	1351	5407	333	1315	3087	74
Conservative ..									

	No. of Employees on Dec. Stat.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
7	7	2	365	66	8530	760	133	2 0	..	..	10	1 11 0
8	60	7	3799	522	73778	7925	1046	1 10 1	..	..	140	14 7 0
9	7	4	746	127	20552	3257	420	2 8 1	..	14	20	2 10 1
10	5	2	339	113	9757	1215	182	2 1 1	..	..	..	1 14 6
11	5	..	313	..	7151	970	123	2 6	..	..	..	1 1 10
12	3	..	240	..	5951	646	120	2 4	..	..	4	1 4 11
13	47	27	3210	1685	94439	11601	1762	2 0 1	..	..	63	10 7 5
14	3	..	135	..	2585	189	26	2 0	..	..	..	0 15 0
15	54	35	4356	2063	103631	16095	1921	2 4	..	207	..	12 16 6
16	5	..	295	..	6115	555	70	1 8	..	..	3	....
	704	251	47685	17014	1215427	175617	20220	..	3	311	302	147 9 3
17	..	..	..	450	25494	1198	92	1 0	..	..	..	....
	704	251	47685	17464	1240921	176815	20312	..	3	311	302	147 9 3
1	196	64	11555	4903	239032	34294	5064	3 0	..	383	142	28 16 5
2	89	24	6562	1790	132312	18339	1664	3 0	..	102	17	17 18 5
3	11	10	938	402	26712	4533	758	2 11	..	22	15	3 19 0
4	7	1	560	28	16122	2572	276	2 10 1	..	9	6	1 13 6
5	5	..	246	..	11706	865	68	3 0	..	..	..	0 15 7
6	7	1	484	16	13556	2033	208	2 11	..	..	6	1 17 0
7	15	2	1143	65	31859	5686	878	3 0 1	..	46	30	4 4 4
8	32	6	4107	478	64131	10491	829	3 3	..	90	14	6 19 9
9	17	4	1490	80	39215	5474	298	3 2	..	..	13	4 15 0
10	4	2	401	37	16129	1970	127	2 11 1	..	8	3	1 7 1
11	108	54	9012	3583	195677	31285	3609	3 0	..	160	1191	20 14 6
12	58	26	4421	1216	104943	17772	3074	3 0	..	143	114	16 5 10
13	278	102	19580	7442	448202	68506	10976	3 0	..	1746	328	73 17 5
14	364	198	28184	9439	755978	129611	11606	3 0	..	3034	3581	107 17 10
15	67	11	4590	631	96950	15499	1307	3 0	..	230	41	12 12 0
16	99	36	6779	1989	169953	28785	4058	3 0	..	..	64	23 10 0
17	29	1	1918	44	48375	8800	1250	3 2	..	20	87	6 17 0
18	32	8	1397	536	39441	5750	820	3 0	..	40	19	4 9 1
	1418	550	103367	32679	2450293	392265	46870	..	..	6033	5671	338 9 9
19	..	13	..	839	7084	651	114	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
	1418	563	103367	33518	2457377	392916	46984	..	..	6033	5671	338 19 9
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 15 0
2	3	2	217	115	8262	1347	111	3 4	..	..	3	1 1 3
3	272	135	15797	9759	461262	80504	14271	2 9	..	910	321	70 0 0
4	2	..	167	..	5715	961	63	3 2	..	..	3	0 16 3
5	4	1	415	24	18508	3277	273	4 0	..	6	21	2 6 0
6	118	38	8396	2977	207901	31351	3561	2 10 1	..	415	191	27 0 10
7	1	..	99	..	2869	316	37	3 6	..	..	1	0 8 6
8	73	31	5340	2223	112593	17308	2040	3 0	..	..	34	13 10 10
9	3	4	302	224	11737	1809	107	3 2	..	27	3	1 11 7
10	4	..	309	..	8648	1580	113	4 0	..	..	..	1 10 0
11	13	..	804	..	35453	5295	273	4 0	..	..	7	....

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
ROCHDALE DISTRICT—Con.										
New Hey Industrial	444	3321	1447	125	3890	1605		1086	591	12
Rochdale Equit. Pioneers	21997	397091	6065	14600	59219	45599	79722	260854	4997	13
„ Provident	14951	226870	10572	17548	34413	25067	58470	158604	..	14
Shawforth	355	3291	284	922	1453	1346	..	2016	356	15
a Smallbridge Conservative	274	6215	..	410	695	331	4650	1554	8	16
Smithy Bridge	249	7204	672	235	1202	744	3228	3650	140	17
Summerseat and Brooks- bottoms	203	3461	2436	282	1210	991	1414	2740	292	18
Tottington Equitable . . .	487	10428	1315	3015	1310	2485	4400	7845	75	19
„ Industrial	1278	28122	2715	1621	5091	5824	3966	19298	763	20
Wardle	213	6636	609	584	705	736	3370	3456	..	21
Whitworth	939	13814	990	723	4626	3970	2207	6934	101	22
Woolfold	784	14927	46	826	2773	1283	6720	6376	..	23
Retail Societies Total	66927	1235938	40662	82368	218804	169546	423494	661494	10087	
Productive Society—										
Rochdale and District Laundry	h20	7000	7917	..	604	14888	..	40	79	24
District Total	66947	1242938	48579	82368	219408	184424	423494	661534	10166	
No. 15—ROSSENDALE DIST.										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Bacup	3554	85368	10000	6024	14363	14365	10206	64088	5803	1
Cawl Terrace	943	13510	344	1408	1408	1407	6184	7949	228	2
Crawshawbooth	797	32294	526	1031	6078	4019	..	24820	1084	3
Edenfield	315	9088	397	275	1230	1310	2805	4006	30	4
Haslingden	3421	59753	28843	6265	12031	17583	38350	31287	650	5
Helmshore	628	10775	1962	722	3129	2917	4727	3375	179	6
Love Clough	372	11286	858	841	2267	819	3084	7744	305	7
Lumb	154	946	202	86	829	350	..	343	97	8
Ramsbottom Industrial . .	2983	68922	14949	7009	14003	18032	27811	36233	1758	9
Rawtenstall Conservative	1175	10797	1723	2173	3096	4761	4578	4141	344	10
Stacksteads	539	2409	3365	376	2823	2153	741	700	692	11
Tunstead	382	2865	373	44	1499	727	431	1850	..	12
Turn	84	1323	..	63	266	203	302	793	4	13
Water Peace and Safety . .	188	2304	470	168	1341	501	..	1449	115	14
Waterfoot	630	6646	3344	196	3895	4420	1263	1308	483	15
Whitewell Bottom	428	5328	..	491	1907	856	500	2708	439	16
District Total	16373	323614	67356	27172	70165	74423	100982	193604	12211	
No. 16—SOUTH YORKSHIRE DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib Societies—										
Bakewell	334	703	206	176	761	..	..	513	129	1
Barnsley	47132	756314	7388	14066	244091	208600	227988	211635	8419	2
Brightside and Carbrook .	35405	404024	36691	18566	132841	149946	41053	214916	10686	3
Chesterfield	5000	34191	13210	2767	25472	9662	13679	9583	2662	4
Clown	1377	20580	2711	1074	6630	4120	7514	8669	169	5
* Conisborough	405	1388	..	679	28	9	..	1482	662	6
Denaby Main	816	27758	819	6249	3481	1865	4262	28495	509	7
Doncaster	16517	186115	9019	15779	60877	93181	25050	57672	1083	8
Eckington	588	4292	..	566	2211	534	650	2412	497	9
Goole	3500	24290	5	3701	11363	8059	..	10562	380	10
Handsworth Woodhouse . .	2176	25674	1511	2306	13575	9778	2745	7805	2260	11
Hasland	1010	8589	1222	405	4936	3566	..	2872	520	12
Heath and Williamthorpe .	417	3363	324	996	3423	1231	250	1410	589	13
Killamarsh	853	13320	1940	1355	4730	3682	1639	7741	431	14
Kilnburst	1224	20924	1425	2111	5119	3321	2975	15596	108	15
Masbro'	12177	205879	6927	13047	59270	73148	36215	82336	7229	16

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
12	10	..	853	..	24378	2270	132	4 0	..	..	..	2 5 0
13	284	148	21062	9405	519701	92520	15093	3 4	..	838	206	113 10 8
14	199	69	14415	4805	293246	56728	8789	3 4	..	..	144	..
15	4	..	288	..	11358	1825	134	3 4	..	..	2	1 14 0
16	3	..	202	..	7610	1827	247	4 4	..	..	3	..
17	3	..	317	..	9669	1797	285	3 6	..	..	5	1 5- 0
18	5	2	291	118	9180	1528	141	3 4	..	..	1	1 0 9
19	7	..	398	..	17409	3179	356	3 6	..	..	6	2 5 10
20	20	8	1685	456	40877	7100	1054	3 0	..	60	8	..
21	2	..	172	..	9076	1677	272	3 8	..	..	3	1 2 6
22	17	10	1102	444	32560	5192	568	3 0	..	68	7	4 11 5
23	15	1	986	28	25030	4247	589	3 3	..	46	20	3 14 3
	1032	449	73617	30578	1873042	323638	48509	..	..	2370	989	253 9 8
24	..	76	..	3859	8990	1078	280	0 6	..	..	..	....
	1062	525	73617	34437	1882032	324716	48789	..	..	2370	989	253 9 8
1	78	50	5575	3329	137870	21801	3387	3 0	..	334	128	18 7 1
2	12	4	918	236	35204	4560	543	2 5	..	42	4	4 12 0
3	13	7	1047	358	35543	7189	1272	3 6	..	..	5	4 2 9
4	3	4	407	173	10693	2029	379	3 0	..	..	6	1 13 10
5	61	44	4025	3565	112723	17339	2344	3 0	..	361	60	16 13 6
6	8	..	527	..	16738	2862	421	3 14	..	..	10	2 4 2
7	5	..	502	..	14682	3377	420	4 0	..	34	8	1 17 10
8	2	..	187	..	5411	606	44	2 0	..	..	1	0 13 9
9	78	25	5295	2287	115411	18445	2367	3 0	..	315	200	14 18 0
10	19	5	1320	410	33113	6288	415	3 3	..	..	25	4 8 9
11	7	2	579	212	13499	1047	110	1 7	..	..	6	2 14 8
12	5	..	465	..	8556	684	120	1 44	..	..	3	..
13	1	..	108	..	2897	559	61	3 6	..	..	..	0 8 11
14	2	1	233	64	7686	541	114	1 1	..	..	4	1 1 4
15	16	2	1002	140	22793	2528	300	1 8	..	..	4	4 3 2
16	7	2	529	137	18285	1802	257	1 8	..	..	12	2 1 8
	317	146	22719	10911	591104	91657	12554	..	..	1086	476	80 1 5
1	4	..	268	..	5054	410	27	1 6	..	..	..	1 16 8
2	918	334	56810	29389	1753484	233940	36630	2 3	..	1885	8298	233 10 4
3	1047	179	57379	15525	1211717	123019	18308	1 104	..	410	386	171 0 2
4	108	9	5854	749	150984	14883	1451	1 11	..	359	20	21 1 8
5	30	3	1973	112	59568	7080	857	2 2	..	..	14	6 12 10
6	6	..	374	..	8559	1398	58	3 0	..	..	3	..
7	23	..	1655	..	36950	9066	1334	5 0	..	89	57	3 19 2
8	341	92	22532	6225	484472	61477	7197	2 2	601	919	118	82 12 10
9	9	..	519	..	17091	1990	177	2 04	28	42	14	2 8 9
10	76	9	3866	583	88734	9532	1070	2 1	..	31	13	16 13 4
11	50	16	3026	433	86214	10397	1158	2 3	100	111	21	9 16 6
12	31	..	1658	..	40548	3808	410	1 104	..	..	3	5 4 2
13	14	5	736	379	21537	2750	132	2 5	..	35	41	0 17 9
14	23	1	1615	76	39747	4876	595	2 04	..	95	41	4 3 6
15	26	1	1460	128	57068	8862	950	2 94	..	38	39	5 6 9
16	340	62	19933	4210	430479	54493	8080	2 2	..	452	358	58 10 4

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
SOUTH YORKSHIRE DIST.—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Con.—									
Matlock Bank	1013	6335	1190	662	5646	2332	..	821	978
Oughtibridge	546	4294	..	566	1325	1398	..	2973	937
Oxcroft	280	2033	149	427	2551	580	..	690	294
Pilsley	819	7396	115	2485	6451	2663	842	2162	680
Pontefract	9292	51190	40	5370	20219	13828	2815	23683	607
Scunthorpe	4512	32230	6911	2521	14302	14969	6536	10631	539
Sheffield and Ecclesall	27578	170943	18839	13641	106048	71740	15079	48643	2771
Staveley Town	1318	2388	..	1502	7375	5140	7497	5711	1317
Stocksbridge	2781	51431	279	3057	14921	11098	15022	22892	11
Tideswell	210	932	..	120	487	16	..	616	127
Worksop	4501	89710	2062	3821	23377	22542	35668	174478	3362
Retail Societies Total	181731	2156295	112983	118054	787510	718038	447479	950909	47956
Productive Societies—									
*Sheffield Trade Union									
Sheep Shear Manufg...	66	1750	1682	6200	4013	7529	..	1329	..
District Total	181797	2158045	114665	124254	791523	725567	447479	958328	47956
WHOLESALE SOCIETY—		I.		II					
Co-op. Wholesale Society	1189	2653774	4455517	2275078	5135546	2573718	6256	2246665	2849142
SPECIAL SOCIETY—			E	A					
Co-operative Insurance .	3	20000	23804	736204	..	25030	71155	705203	16464
ISLE OF MAN—									
Retail Distrib Societies —									
*Foxdale	190	423	..	261	601	140	..	440	459
Laxey Industrial	498	4862	..	467	2046	1138	..	2347	341
„ Old Equitable ...	201	1970	..	168	1175	228	..	617	472
District Total	889	7255	..	896	3822	1506	..	3404	1272

• 1913 Figures.

1. Societies representing 2,585,972 individual members.

ii. Exclusive of 2,000 ordinary shares of £10 each (paid up) in the Manchester Ship Canal Company; 7,500 shares of £1 each (paid up) in the Gilsland Convalescent Home; 5,500 shares of £1 each (paid up) in the British Cotton-Growing Association; and £8,000 (paid up) in the North-Western Co-operative Convalescent Homes Association.

A Including Insurance and Sinking Funds. B Including 103 Full-time Agents. C Premiums.

F On Members' Premiums. E Premiums paid in advance.

F Excluding Agents' Commissions, £23,541.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
						Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Distributive.	Pro- ductive.	Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur poses.					Co-operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
17	20	4	1317	117	25268	2336	287	..	..	24	21	3 0 0
18	9	..	597	..	22652	2314	208	..	..	..	5	2 13 10
19	7	..	519	..	15498	1711	82	2 14	33	21	2	1 7 0
20	27	..	1547	..	39407	4667	343	2 0 3	..	..	10	4 6 11
21	238	25	9880	920	314875	39379	1949	2 3	..	..	11	45 1 2
22	109	13	5577	1053	123225	12026	1279	1 9	..	50	29	21 11 10
23	630	103	37663	7616	710905	69061	6680	1 9 1	..	100	384	125 2 0
24	32	..	1700	..	54147	7957	826	2 6	..	47	..	7 1 3
25	68	17	4114	1307	100709	12609	2451	2 1	..	58	79	14 1 0
26	3	..	183	..	5251	570	38	1 8	..	2	..	....
27	112	18	6812	1209	180185	19048	3561	1 9	..	161	132	21 5 0
	4301	891	249567	70031	6084328	719659	96138	..	762	4959	10101	869 4 9
28	..	..	..	5241	11076	1121	..	..	..	..	..	....
	4301	891	249567	75272	6095404	720780	96138	..	762	4959	10101	869 4 9
29	3542	18673	389673	III. 1430051	52230074	1794694	121324	0 5	..	147	6231	600 0 0
30	B 443	..	F 33160	..	C 380123	26430	1000	D 2 0	..	..	..	25 0 0
31	4	2	185	85	4111	434	25	2 0	..	..	..	....
32	11	6	528	251	16686	1781	230	1 11 1	..	..	4	....
33	5	2	327	94	6166	461	86	2 0	..	..	..	....
	20	10	1040	430	26963	2676	341	..	..	..	4	....

III. Including Purchasing Depôts, Shipping Departments, Creameries, Building Departments, &c.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.		Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	House Prop.	All other Invest.	£
No. 1—AIREDALE	48	150830	2545727	133281	118597	714978	838818	433148	1175396		27237
" 2—BOLTON	34	108766	2188360	210647	123377	424394	509510	509999	1342487		19327
" 3—CALDERDALE	27	43906	776919	59401	57736	227643	219888	217287	349473		24065
" 4—CHESHIRE AND NORTH WALES ..	40	123306	966655	133420	117283	466472	526321	91499	360956		15946
" 5—DEWSBURY	28	71486	1349629	55932	46641	259435	311829	261097	606893		23551
" 6—EAST YORKSHIRE ..	16	57314	467441	71316	29141	192332	239674	20392	206821		20338
" 7—HUDDERSFIELD	44	48589	775724	114667	46653	248736	198826	134098	478741		44022
" 8—MACCLESFIELD, CREWE AND DIST.	26	80210	992457	150197	74393	341218	339288	182455	442638		79702
" 9—MANCHESTER	34	148404	2304547	242820	135079	645826	737710	556772	1088964		61971
" 10—NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE	35	92253	1793873	278197	68319	429924	594434	847176	425455		23223
" 11—NORTH LANCASHIRE	15	63353	860910	69400	55906	212250	232563	208125	422100		75611
" 12—NORTH LONSDALE ..	17	30508	486302	15336	29975	144668	139104	52054	242929		13312
" 13—OLDHAM	19	66281	1262006	146942	85339	244592	257575	404454	697436		7892
" 14—ROCHDALE	24	66947	1242938	48579	82368	219408	184434	423494	661534		10166
" 15—ROSENDALE	16	16373	323614	67356	27172	70165	74423	100982	193694		12211
" 16—SOUTH YORKSHIRE ..	28	181797	2158045	114665	124254	791523	725567	447479	958328		47956
WHOLESALE SOCIETY	1	1189	2653774	4455517	2275078	5135546	2573718	6256	2246665		284042
CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE ..	1	3	20000	23804	736204	..	25030	71155	705203		16464
ISLE OF MAN	3	889	7253	..	896	3822	1506	..	3404		1272
Totals, 1916	456	1837406	23176266	6391477	4284451	10702832	8730228	5058222	12609117		2810958
Totals, 1915	458	1275840	21379402	6217709	3866729	8452306	8974325	4654466	12033588		2104619
Increase .....	..	82066	1796864	173768	367722	2250626	..	403756	575529		706339
Decrease	2	..	..	..	..	..	244097	..	..		..

Summary showing Members, Capital,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	423	1851308	20259739	1793762	1156745	5407006	5953882	4978645	9570419	352615
Distributive Federations ..	5	60	27260	85	1854	2724	1285	1851	27867	7845
Productive Societies	25	4997	213448	118309	63430	155899	176212	146	57541	82562
Supply Association	1	349	1935	..	1140	1757	101	169	1372	2830
Special Soc ety	1	3	20000	23804	736204	..	25030	71155	705203	16464
Wholesale Society	1	1189	2653774	4455517	2275078	5135546	2573718	6256	2246665	284042
Total for Section ..	456	1837406	23176266	6391477	4284451	10702832	8730228	5058222	12609117	2810958

NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	3634	1462	206513	106177	5127749	698808	93873	60	3276	3251	716 11 7
2	2585	918	183987	63088	4051969	660791	76873	8	7054	2939	542 1 9
3	779	698	61554	46688	1782322	262962	30864	1066	1347	885	218 0 11
4	3084	567	184649	44555	3685471	451887	39528	532	3314	1260	608 6 11
5	1352	477	96591	30846	2527239	372615	52964	..	4188	1503	342 16 6
6	1248	308	78714	21229	1607064	179099	21509	1250	1931	702	243 16 6
7	901	594	71099	37695	2079327	304742	31305	..	1068	680	236 2 3
8	1923	733	116153	56108	2814155	373162	38947	876	2398	4994	386 12 7
9	3511	1859	256561	128368	5056691	759202	92830	3090	6802	3209	671 11 7
10	1810	1271	130390	86006	3015506	451952	71509	685	5708	1308	475 4 5
11	1084	422	69896	31972	1643984	236871	30983	..	2352	2231	311 17 0
12	704	251	48135	17014	1240921	176815	20312	3	311	302	147 9 3
13	1418	563	103367	33518	2457377	392916	46984	..	6033	5671	338 19 9
14	1062	525	73617	34437	1882032	324716	48789	..	2370	989	253 9 8
15	317	146	22719	10911	591104	91657	12554	..	1086	476	80 1 5
16	4301	891	249567	75272	6055404	720780	96138	762	4959	10101	869 4 9
17	3542	18673	389673	1480054	52230074	1794694	121324	..	147	6231	600 0 0
18	443	..	33160	..	380123	26430	1000	..	..	..	25 0 0
19	20	10	1040	490	26963	2676	341	..	..	4	..
33718	30369	2379685	2254368	98295475	8282725	928627	8332	54344	46736	7062	6 10
30976	32589	2125308	2183337	82604087	7284892	837569	7011	51226	37143	6648	9 10
2742	..	254377	71031	15691388	997833	91058	1321	3118	9593	413	17 0
..	2220	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Trade, &c., of various classes of Societies.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
29648	9423	1944796	671786	44799153	6401162	794879	4127	54174	39723	6384 7 10
16	11	1183	1006	122502	9662	1254	..	..	7	1 0 0
69	2262	10423	151522	738129	49579	10078	4205	23	775	51 19 0
..	..	450	..	25494	1198	92	..	..	..	..
443	..	33160	..	380123	26430	1000	..	..	..	25 0 0
3542	18673	389673	1480054	52230074	1794694	121324	..	147	6231	600 0 0
33718	30369	2379685	2254368	98295475	8282725	928627	8332	54344	46736	7062 6 10

SCOTTISH

RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of ABER-
DUMFRIES, EDINBURGH, ELGIN, FIFE, FORFAR, HADDINGTON, INVERNESS,
ROXBURGH, SELKIRK, and STIRLING, for 1916,

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.		
No. 1—AYRSHIRE DIST.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Ardrossan	1754	15677	4268	2212	6842	8373	..	7575	4401	1
Auchinleck	1018	16836	5416	1088	5694	6855	572	10504	2018	2
Beith	803	13266	9313	1729	3965	3567	1508	16207	1338	3
Campbeltown	536	5104	64	415	2414	1398	1300	785	867	4
Carrick (Maybole)	880	11486	1520	935	4060	3431	274	6457	956	5
Carronbridge	215	1117	130	172	615	..	..	1004	162	6
Catrine	770	13017	113	1129	2631	2858	5915	4172	597	7
Creetown	95	327	220	157	192	414	..	374	51	8
Crosshouse (Kilmarnock) ..	918	21496	1088	1372	4524	5605	..	14982	954	9
Dalbeattie	158	819	116	67	401	306	..	566	108	10
Dalmellington	559	11483	746	639	3632	2902	..	8083	1287	11
Dalry	717	11138	2574	728	3338	6334	1000	4931	424	12
Darvel	1135	33611	4173	2295	5231	9392	3769	24597	605	13
Dreghorn (Irvine)	746	25107	87	886	3371	2999	4146	17454	45	14
Dumfries & Maxwelltown ..	2784	36524	9512	2153	12221	14009	..	28671	3640	15
Fergushill	175	3146	267	318	640	267	..	3389	54	16
Galston	1392	46113	3960	2664	7272	10029	1289	35174	2282	17
Glenbuck	139	3198	66	200	370	153	..	3305	..	18
Hurlford	1003	20842	2977	1255	5315	4998	3876	11877	1025	19
Irvine and Fullarton	1377	22697	6672	1992	5391	4730	824	23308	20	20
Kilbirnie	1731	36112	3050	4590	10315	10477	4958	22173	3879	21
Kilmarnock Equitable	11332	195006	1395	10994	43965	64093	25118	80321	1594	22
Kilwinning	1328	26624	3569	2044	5084	9325	5150	14742	1156	23
Kirkconnel	261	..	..	..	860	1912	..	626	735	24
Largs	95	389	..	117	404	384	..	314	176	25
Mauchline	623	15661	534	726	2017	930	3570	10901	900	26
Millport	118	881	152	78	279	7	..	943	106	27
Muirkirk	723	14077	4910	1395	4077	3006	700	13591	1006	28
New Cumnock	722	10489	1483	540	5943	3914	1020	3168	164	29
Newmilns	1192	30470	11455	1495	9289	9544	3059	24141	2300	30
Old Cumnock	558	7799	37	477	1714	1052	644	6026	445	31
Patna	429	9210	116	755	1840	1295	420	7570	1036	32
Stevenston	1440	25594	16629	2340	6650	5890	4850	31471	..	33
Troon	1181	26352	1918	1106	6968	7010	1910	16020	787	34
Wigtown	204	1560	309	62	978	351	188	652	295	35
District Total	39111	714128	99569	49125	178511	207810	76060	465074	35503	

SECTION.

DEEN, ARGYLE, AYR, BANFF, BUTE, CAITHNESS, CLACKMANNAN, DUMBARTON, KINCARDINE, KINROSS, LANARK, LINLITHGOW, PEEBLES, PERTH, RENFREW, arranged in their respective Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Districtive.	Productive.	Districtive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	52	14	2949	1438	79891	10472	490	2 6½	..	41	8 3 0
2	30	29	1701	2143	56965	8629	698	2 9½	..	33	5 0 6
3	25	8	1071	784	35339	5152	506	2 7½	..	58	272 4 0 10
4	11	10	595	794	16818	2069	230	2 2	..	17	25 2 15 0
5	30	11	1724	936	33367	4351	515	2 4	..	30	14 4 3 5
6	4	..	187	..	4578	472	54	2 2	..	..	1
7	14	6	872	453	23362	3699	507	2 8	..	3	37 3 17 2
8	3	..	141	..	3353	408	17	2 4½	..	..	1 0 10 3
9	27	21	1408	1517	46628	7522	612	2 10½	..	86	45 4 3 4
10	3	..	169	..	5192	408	38	2 2	..	..	2
11	18	7	990	637	33408	5203	487	2 10	..	34	2 13 2
12	22	11	1239	697	33787	4689	350	2 4	..	20	15 3 4 0
13	27	24	1527	1450	44387	7413	893	2 10	..	35	87 5 16 8
14	22	17	1348	1058	40956	6660	923	2 8	..	65	71 3 15 6
15	75	26	3919	2678	106263	17707	1673	3 0½	..	..	84 14 6 6
16	9	..	507	..	12650	1904	142	2 9½	..	..	10 0 17 9
17	43	27	2466	2192	76397	12574	1735	2 9½	..	127	10 8 5
18	5	..	114	..	9830	1503	139	2 10½	..	..	7 0 14 0
19	22	32	1558	2050	53247	7956	812	2 7½	..	..	82 6 3 4
20	47	18	2486	2292	77701	10402	778	2 7	..	201	33 6 0 7
21	90	35	5529	2614	114607	16631	1216	2 8	..	60	47 8 8 8
22	363	155	18360	12613	409227	48157	6632	1 11½	..	827	535 53 0 1
23	47	26	2525	1970	77465	11415	1190	2 7½	..	76	73 6 6 8
24	7	..	359	..	14464	2238	84	2 10	..	..	4 0 19 7
25	2	..	95	..	2286	181	18	1 7½	..	..	..
26	10	5	551	336	16952	2800	551	2 9½	..	..	39 3 1 9
27	3	..	143	..	3500	255	43	2 0	..	..	..
28	26	13	1614	1113	47174	7259	573	2 10	..	24	31 3 11 11
29	24	19	1187	1075	32751	4955	379	2 8	..	19	14 3 8 9
30	32	29	1834	2052	52787	8425	1010	2 9½	..	..	64 6 2 9
31	14	1	600	89	26827	4726	328	3 2½	..	..	6
32	14	5	637	549	29821	4842	420	3 0	..	..	6
33	38	21	2092	1945	80117	10974	976	2 6	..	26	94 6 19 7
34	47	22	2064	1941	56970	8465	1267	2 6	..	48	34 5 14 7
35	6	..	312	..	6621	841	66	2 6	24	..	1 0 13 6
1212	592		64873	47425	1765688	251357	26352	..	24	1595	1969 185 1 3

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					Owing to the Society for Goods.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.			
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.		
No. 2.—BORDER COUNTIES DISTRICT.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Earlston	304	534	456	96	692	964	..	465	231	
Galashiels United	2583	42048	5181	4399	14479	25328	..	18661	6327	2
†Gretna .....	..	1735	..	..	2549	161	..	..	196	3
Hawick	4478	65154	9573	6047	25569	21742	..	45513	6196	4
Innerleithen	671	11057	2396	1716	4921	2285	1671	8626	1106	5
Jedburgh	374	2907	1116	60	1244	2485	..	1836	671	6
Kelso	386	2673	1048	95	902	1634	..	1619	379	7
Langholm	622	4975	1849	510	3813	2457	..	3168	889	8
Peebles	999	20971	1918	2088	5765	7235	..	14721	1831	9
Riccarton Junction	80	842	..	40	437	6	..	698	315	10
Selkirk	1267	24601	5363	2912	9960	9154	2938	13764	2529	11
Walkerburn	348	6327	2926	1481	3400	1813	1290	5794	1021	12
District Total	12112	183824	31826	19444	73731	75264	5899	114865	21691	
No. 3.—CENTRAL DIST.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Auchenheath	600	5429	466	545	3597	1389	..	1998	1612	1
Bellshill and Mossend	2575	42479	5354	2568	17241	19347	..	18307	3413	2
Blantyre	2150	36094	4600	2760	9484	21681	..	11245	2334	3
Burnbank	2058	8139	33325	3935	8053	6603	1562	33262	1741	4
Calderbank	383	1119	6809	418	1473	1297	..	6167	688	5
Carlisle	1205	21489	2207	1112	7603	5910	..	13300	2178	6
Carstairs Junction	383	1545	5582	5	2884	881	1275	2530	930	7
Chapelhall	847	2647	16412	1150	4985	2672	572	13309	1046	8
Chapelton	101	507	..	108	301	38	13	460	68	9
Clarkston	217	2387	370	280	785	414	273	1609	513	10
Cleland	693	6028	1320	679	3038	3574	..	2380	1221	11
Coalburn	1253	9027	3501	413	5190	5845	..	5596	1871	12
Coatbridge	8797	227705	2143	28704	71324	31252	26187	139075	23472	13
Crofthead	1110	38469	378	1442	11302	5727	2936	25562	..	14
Dalziel (Motherwell)	10206	24348	240768	19774	41343	20181	22277	244882	9421	15
Darnagail	111	803	169	368	417	89	..	1015	461	16
Douglas Provident	304	3057	897	183	1207	1832	390	958	213	17
Water	295	5846	883	378	1894	1030	335	4450	215	18
Dykehead and Shotts	1935	53340	3663	2989	10357	12144	3794	40635	463	19
*Forth Provident	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
*Glenboig	290	3688	990	193	1085	2473	..	3165	..	21
Glengowan	251	733	3550	257	1141	437	..	3750	144	22
*Glespin	46	388	..	45	240	..	..	320	..	23
Greengairs	161	1420	152	205	801	124	..	1220	380	24
Hamilton Central	3674	61864	9791	4424	19584	16212	5392	39437	4152	25
Palace Colliery	496	9758	180	610	2758	745	..	8063	740	26
Lanark	1650	34214	2335	1645	8779	11480	1060	21010	733	27
Larkhall	1771	48006	6700	2675	7795	6004	1126	44114	3875	28
Victualling	1787	16618	47507	2239	11736	11734	571	38505	10165	29
*Law	356	2609	6442	250	1329	1199	..	88270	..	30
Leadhills	175	979	..	523	929	329	..	472	685	31
Levenseat	36	105	252	94	123	..	..	392	..	32
Moffat Mills	130	795	2337	182	936	414	339	1650	463	33
Newarthill	423	1222	6580	330	2649	1422	..	5059	..	34
Newmains & Cambusnethn	1434	22354	2014	3267	9369	7556	1087	10384	3086	35
Overtown	414	10505	847	393	4360	2428	801	4852	936	36
Plains	214	2862	1465	190	1428	341	..	3408	204	37
Strathaven	604	4650	12285	964	3087	1468	200	13273	..	38
Wanlockhead	295	3015	53	268	1183	1030	315	1564	979	39
Wishaw	3697	79307	6614	6767	16045	17367	3480	63788	4092	40
Retail Societies Total	53135	795548	438941	93332	297785	224669	73925	916206	82494	

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.	Distrib- utive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s d.
1	4	2	233	217	4595	224	25	1 6	..	..	1 9 6
2	91	51	5445	3009	122155	16964	1493	2 7 1/2	..	40	13 4 0
3	24		835		20486	1077	..	..	..	86	..
4	131	92	8099	5952	195905	36908	2890	3 6	..	35	23 9 0
5	17	13	1054	918	33997	6506	514	3 7	..	7	3 3 4
6	6	3	355	161	6309	617	113	1 10	..	..	1 13 10
7	8	5	297	306	7502	531	128	1 4	..	5	2 6 2
8	17	7	1115	532	28346	4498	242	3 4 1/2	..	23	3 1 6
9	36	17	1713	1441	49794	8965	775	3 6	..	62	4 10 0
10	2		153		4215	618	39	3 5	..	..	..
11	41	34	2885	1667	61342	9842	1146	3 0	..	15	6 10 8
12	13	16	788	1200	24995	4246	246	3 1 1/2	..	23	1 16 3
	390	240	22972	15403	559641	90996	7581	..	..	97	61 4 3
1	14	4	971	294	29748	4908	155	3 4	..	27	2 19 2
2	88	36	5168	3068	150426	22716	1890	2 10	..	80	12 4 1
3	102	30	4834	2667	136631	20715	1272	2 9 1/2	..	288	171 10 6 3
4	81	24	4318	1817	138169	21043	328	2 11	..	229	257 9 8 8
5	9	2	643	78	30332	4585	52	2 11	..	..	13 1 16 3
6	27	16	2106	1057	69414	10450	767	2 8	..	14	46 5 14 7
7	13	11	761	765	25750	3928	67	2 11 1/2	..	..	14 1 18 9
8	23	8	1478	483	51596	7452	125	2 10 1/2	..	..	35 3 16 8
9	2	..	96	..	3209	394	20	2 7 1/2	..	..	..
10	5	..	261	..	13280	2267	82	3 2 1/2	..	..	16
11	20	18	1265	1220	45093	6752	225	2 10 1/2	..	..	2 3 7 11
12	28	25	1318	2391	49572	7030	355	2 9	..	..	9 3 2 6
13	422	161	22432	13679	552187	91164	8670	2 9 1/2	..	770	892 39 15 8
14	29	23	1765	1922	66321	12708	1475	3 4 1/2	..	53	110 5 8 8
15	467	169	26648	13662	650709	92186	1193	2 9 1/2	..	200	1373 49 18 9
16	4	..	247	..	9833	1581	21	3 2 1/2	..	..	1 0 11 8
17	9	3	500	347	14705	1990	55	2 7	..	..	6 1 10 10
18	9	3	442	395	21567	2994	209	2 7	..	1	22 1 5 9
19	78	60	4230	4125	146922	27095	2350	3 4	..	..	111 9 12 7
20	..	..	..	..	31	1	..	..	..	..	..
21	..	..	1088	..	19047	2764	191	..	..	..	..
22	5	2	467	26	17926	2668	32	3 4 1/2	..	..	..
23	..	..	103	..	2373	282	12	..	..	8	1 2 10
24	4	2	267	103	12958	2408	66	3 7 1/2	..	..	..
25	118	58	7315	3338	204170	32366	2659	2 10	..	292	200 16 17 2
26	19	1	1048	104	41487	7099	379	3 3	..	..	67 2 10 6
27	47	28	2423	1997	70587	11401	1435	2 11 1/2	..	230	69 8 19 3
28	54	36	3451	1901	108790	17668	2049	3 0 1/2	..	80	91 8 7 8
29	48	69	3401	4985	139674	22913	320	3 2 1/2	..	30	80 8 16 6
30	..	..	872	..	20118	3298	100	..	..	..	..
31	4	..	263	..	8358	1291	44	3 4	..	..	3
32	3	..	90	..	1618	218	5	2 8	..	..	3 0 4 6
33	4	..	230	..	10295	1447	20	3 0	..	..	4 0 13 0
34	16	6	847	227	27580	3664	53	2 8	..	..	46 2 11 10
35	70	37	3551	2220	91395	14475	920	3 1	..	..	52 6 17 9
36	19	13	883	674	31364	5124	415	3 1 1/2	..	..	26 1 16 5
37	5	..	233	..	14894	2617	170	3 3 1/2	..	..	0 15 5
38	17	8	940	465	23755	3367	532	2 4 1/2	..	6	27 2 15 9
39	5	1	337	83	10079	1588	109	3 4	..	..	3 1 10 6
40	142	90	6107	5674	205743	35628	3126	3 1 1/2	..	166	227 17 12 7
	2010	944	113399	69767	3267706	514245	31948	..	..	2489	4197 245 5 5

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem. bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
CENTRAL DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Productive Societies—									
Chapelhall Fed. Baking..	7	1029	13187	1009	1658	4308	255	9945	771
Hamilton Baking	7	7322	46192	2633	6923	9308	685	43302	772
Produc. Societies Total	14	8351	59379	3642	8581	13616	940	53247	1543
District Total	53149	803899	498320	96974	306366	238285	74865	972518	84037
No. 4—EAST OF SCOTLAND DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Armadales	1463	45979	1249	4809	7994	8235	3681	36774	1426
Bathgate	3505	67656	22	2531	16910	14215	9046	39014	4069
Broxburn	2170	27196	2669	2733	11773	9699	1851	9195	5745
Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's	49521	757742	42182	24241	235142	245876	105531	732720	47799
Gavieside	91	1167	40	298	546	..	..	1189	235
Gorebridge	1747	39777	847	2628	9949	8436	3045	25453	3232
Haddington	1264	12759	65	2777	4300	7845	1700	5794	1075
Hillwood	1042	20201	5573	10796	6515	11252	4597	14298	3101
Leith	8353	109964	25909	7743	37980	50027	22061	65736	5320
Musselburgh & Fisherrow	6370	112469	12454	24038	32451	43452	..	92598	18601
Penicuik	2301	47414	3951	5147	12178	18345	4780	29266	4937
Portobello	1259	18080	2816	1616	6127	14960	..	7510	1875
Prestonpans	946	8263	1469	3943	4194	4968	661	7891	1776
Rosewell	366	582	..	770	2129	25	..	1298	113
*Springfield	48	548	..	26	160	14	..	403	..
Tranent	3232	52997	7976	13461	29223	19441	16542	23591	4029
†West Barns	778	..	2351	..	1523	974	..	..	435
West Benhar	1567	49157	748	1492	9614	10365	3554	33616	947
West Calder	6334	148561	6959	20150	33865	24105	7800	121431	10219
Retail Societies Total	92957	1520512	117280	329199	462573	492234	184849	1247777	114934
Productive Society—									
Edinburgh Printing	156	10000	..	3000	1240	14677	..	558	4013
District Total	93113	1530512	117280	332199	463813	506911	184849	1248335	118947
No. 5—FALKIRK DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Bo'ness	1752	32561	6662	2105	14884	14167	5205	12320	889
Bonnybridge	1212	23082	4108	1839	6874	6567	3167	16494	608
Camelon	1589	23270	6084	2354	10795	13923	3900	8373	1784
Carron	659	8097	2550	817	3590	2299	605	5650	1436
Carronhall and Kinnaird.	140	1665	161	105	1135	14	..	1176	565
Condorrat	250	2078	36	395	739	390	..	2035	271
Cumbernauld	332	2737	429	454	986	502	496	2276	98
Denny and Dunipace ..	1024	23957	2447	2654	5676	3413	4252	19441	504
Grahamston & Bainsford	3260	45297	4934	3735	18560	20779	1858	20252	2345
Grangemouth	1480	37625	1612	3670	7115	14772	1849	19536	3390
Kilsyth	1750	13747	4824	1110	10709	7999	..	6031	1218
Larbert	789	18461	1899	816	5578	3552	3001	10703	149
Laurieston	443	7881	147	305	2445	902	268	5261	783
Longcroft	808	10887	2764	911	5094	3760	1706	4763	1302
Redding	3327	113491	1084	5629	12537	537	1300	118427	10626
Skinflats	205	11946	101	356	646	435	180	11764	396
Slamannan	1110	2702	21861	2125	8774	826	..	21544	1880
Stenhousemuir Equitable	1342	25811	1632	1516	4470	9492	1411	15287	965
Retail Societies Total	21562	405295	63335	30896	120607	101419	29198	301333	29356

* 1918 Figures.

† Branch of S.C.W.S.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
41	8	23	818	2265	40894	6572	51	..	..	..	59	....
42	29	56	1422	5901	88504	6271	362	..	..	..	53	2 0 0
	37	79	2240	8166	129398	12843	413	..	..	..	112	2 0 0
	2047	1023	115639	77933	3397104	527088	32361	..	..	2439	4309	247 5 5
1	52	33	2955	2410	105626	20256	1558	3 6	..	80	69	7 6 0
2	117	61	5604	3380	189191	36055	2588	3 7½	..	64	69	17 18 2
3	85	35	4462	2620	114165	21425	1005	3 6½	..	86	80	10 0 0
4	1746	1086	108262	70891	2053347	437749	26409	4 0	..	686	1408	245 12 6
5	2	..	98	..	4701	998	40	3 11½	..	..	..	0 8 0
6	73	41	3621	2537	107307	22542	1326	4 0½	..	..	46	8 3 10
7	33	22	1892	1374	50770	7280	575	3 0	..	..	38	6 9 2
8	64	24	3599	2129	80319	15713	681	3 9½	..	..	22	....
9	326	113	16212	8037	328832	66574	4795	4 0	..	..	403	41 11 8
10	295	102	17451	11538	385003	78312	3490	4 0½	..	118	120	28 15 0
11	88	51	4053	3593	123341	24861	1674	3 11	..	..	75	11 15 1
12	42	23	2211	1600	59682	11323	647	3 8	..	..	24	6 9 0
13	32	9	1737	781	47828	10301	263	4 4	..	7	9	4 16 10
14	9	3	666	324	22315	4161	30	4 0	..	..	1016	....
15	..	..	138	..	3317	593	..	..	..	..	..	....
16	76	88	5928	5610	182709	34268	2088	3 9	..	59	40	15 12 6
17	13	6	689	500	18262	3119	57	3 4	..	..	..	....
18	61	21	3000	2540	123088	23695	2078	3 6½	..	..	80	8 3 3
19	219	116	14563	8771	395862	79559	5202	3 9½	..	210	255	31 13 0
	3333	1834	197141	128635	4395665	899084	54506	..	..	1310	3754	444 14 0
20	..	76	..	5557	11329	453	400	..	57	..	14	....
	3333	1190	197141	134192	4406994	899537	54906	..	57	1310	3768	444 14 0
1	41	39	2168	3485	84669	13768	1258	2 11½	..	8	24	9 0 10
2	61	26	3129	1895	84614	12177	1059	2 8	..	161	58	7 4 7
3	57	40	3692	2534	79177	10908	889	2 5	..	48	97	8 2 11
4	19	16	1155	1013	44126	6802	292	2 10	..	..	40	2 14 2
5	2	..	115	..	7505	1451	49	3 11	..	..	1	....
6	8	..	264	..	15883	2641	77	3 2½	..	..	18	1 9 4
7	6	..	315	..	15394	2720	101	3 4½	..	16	14	1 11 10
8	43	17	2312	1532	76064	11479	1123	2 8½	..	..	136	5 5 1
9	120	46	5982	2263	140293	19723	1680	2 5½	..	88	176	16 2 11
10	62	53	3370	2414	72047	10391	1372	2 5½	..	..	74	7 11 9
11	46	29	2528	2281	107940	20180	516	3 8½	..	..	29	8 14 7
12	27	10	1570	986	42842	6110	732	2 7	..	..	40	3 19 0
13	11	2	728	130	26377	3621	285	2 6	..	..	7	....
14	26	8	1644	688	48656	6786	485	2 8	..	..	35	4 10 5
15	91	33	5797	2717	238812	50853	3838	3 11½	..	12	160	....
16	4	..	321	..	13170	2393	569	2 10	..	..	10	0 18 8
17	35	19	2313	1601	70426	11408	126	3 3½	..	6	122	5 13 3
18	59	31	2077	1052	57992	8235	796	2 7	..	..	33	10 12 6
	718	369	39480	24591	1225987	201646	15247	..	..	339	1074	93 11 10

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
FALKIRK DISTRICT—Con.										
Productive Societies—										
Bainsford & Grahamston	4254	40141	774	2316	2385	12493	2428	29426	1444	19
Baking	312	2298	214	113	220	1148	..	015	621	20
Carronshore Baking										
Produc. Societies Total	4566	42439	988	2429	2605	13641	2428	30341	2065	
District Total	26128	447734	64323	33325	1232.2	118060	31626	331674	31421	
No. 6—FIFE AND KINROSS DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Auchtermuchty	543	4032	222	610	2558	859	186	2317	422	1
Buckhaven	2287	43201	1742	2916	10761	22988	2141	15719	3127	2
Burntisland	685	13153	2545	1128	2845	1760	4400	9039	1069	3
Coaltown of Wemyss	307	9584	868	366	1723	2471	..	6927	526	4
Cowdenbeath	2023	52483	836	4752	10578	14085	2437	38379	..	5
Cupar (Fife)	491	4227	700	428	2157	2571	..	1122	676	6
Dunfermline	10674	159780	..	20021	60957	64666	..	83392	..	7
Dysart	1980	26314	834	2217	6904	11866	235	19390	1968	8
East Wemyss	1060	24626	62	645	6429	3345	2071	17402	1593	9
*Falkland	111	654	..	140	542	400	..	429	..	10
Freuchie Reform	115	515	..	311	719	252	..	746	61	11
Guardbridge	660	7240	79	1150	2417	1792	178	6414	511	12
Kelty	2339	62913	564	5735	18868	13737	697	40991	2561	13
Kettle	383	1519	454	396	832	100	..	2262	90	14
Kingseat	209	2993	626	264	1438	1109	..	1777	188	15
Kinross and Vicinity	327	1902	81	230	984	629	..	1288	130	16
Lassodie	219	4234	150	258	2105	56	..	3449	281	17
Leslie	270	4952	..	432	1074	257	..	4890	..	18
.. and District	1162	28788	179	1752	7074	7477	3000	19064	..	19
Leven (Reform)	2114	41629	1210	1348	11221	24724	1750	14589	2060	20
Logchelly	3869	90951	950	9244	24932	20871	1650	54589	11515	21
Markinch	1929	46904	85	1514	12799	15106	..	32158	1640	22
Methill	934	16643	8086	649	7450	10993	4390	5543	1552	23
Newburgh and District	229	2299	1396	314	832	790	472	2731	134	24
Pathhead & Sinclairtown	5146	74485	2982	5666	19693	34556	3690	44875	..	25
St. Andrews	423	2428	28	474	1325	..	..	1949	357	26
Townhill	702	9627	432	1470	3737	4777	1980	4497	507	27
West Wemyss	292	9630	420	515	1902	765	700	7906	480	28
Retail Societies Total	41483	747706	25531	64954	224856	263002	29977	443834	31446	
Productive Societies :—										
*Burntisland Bread	272	1384	..	227	101	602	..	789	..	29
Kettle Baking	518	1544	34	..	175	522	..	1610	60	30
Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	354	693	..	100	137	290	..	635	8	31
Produc. Societies Total	1144	3621	34	327	413	1414	..	3034	68	
District Total	42627	751327	25565	65281	225269	264416	29977	446868	31514	
No. 7—GLASGOW & SUBS.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Anniesland	650	14365	3386	1186	3258	4921	..	11007	1240	1
Avonbank (Rutherglen)	2842	41724	3409	2428	5678	6698	7683	29852	2789	2
Blairdardie	71	496	27	77	140	101	98	446	47	3
Bridgeton Old Victualling	1128	3382	..	4426	5100	..	3000	7720	992	4

* 1913 Figures.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
						Net Profit.	In- ter- est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Educa- tional Pur- poses.						Char- itable Pur- poscs.	Co-operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
19	44	59	2354	5829	81160	12473	1528	3 0	..	56	113	10 0 0	
20	4	4	143	304	4789	844	81	3 12	..	..	..	....
	48	63	2497	6133	85949	13317	1609	..	..	56	113	10 0 0
	766	432	41977	30724	1311936	214963	16856	..	..	395	1187	103 11 10
1	13	4	578	485	16760	2459	217	2 10	..	16	4	2 16 2	
2	59	47	3446	3114	102527	19966	1348	4 2	..	87	67	11 4 5	
3	19	15	686	947	25033	4216	460	3 0	..	86	46	3 10 10	
4	9	3	448	232	17062	2854	347	3 12	..	..	4	1 9 1
5	88	43	4713	3058	131359	25379	2391	3 51	..	119	75	9 8 0	
6	9	4	371	384	13185	2068	188	2 11	..	9	3	2 11 0	
7	358	190	18098	13966	499770	92806	5800	3 41	..	820	..	40 16 8	
8	60	25	3253	1950	94326	18679	1130	4 1	..	60	134	9 4 1	
9	31	28	1541	1792	58051	11028	880	4 3	..	..	41	4 19 9
10	..	..	233	..	3034	585	30	..	..	..	..	..
11	3	..	179	..	3351	526	25	3 6	..	..	..	0 12 6
12	14	6	803	475	26581	5476	339	3 11	..	..	19	3 7 4
13	90	55	5115	4099	154443	29789	2432	3 6	..	271	44	11 13 4	
14	7	2	287	117	9163	1814	68	3 9	..	..	3	1 19 11
15	6	5	394	441	12523	2242	105	3 4	..	..	18	1 0 0
16	4	..	223	..	10374	1685	93	3 2	..	..	1	..
17	7	..	488	..	17045	3419	189	3 8	..	..	26	1 2 7
18	4	..	200	..	6247	1623	205	4 7	..	..	11	1 7 6
19	30	16	1672	1132	49176	10051	1186	4 6	..	22	31	5 1 1	
20	38	55	2498	3214	91148	18667	1722	4 21	..	24	43	10 8 4	
21	154	77	8061	5612	251114	47684	2717	3 6	..	224	115	18 11 2	
22	75	51	4096	2736	118271	23345	1885	4 4	..	153	..	9 15 10	
23	30	29	1439	1734	45148	8667	688	4 0	..	25	11	4 7 11	
24	4	1	215	85	5641	997	114	3 0	..	..	7	1 3 8
25	179	68	9981	4803	207353	38241	3452	3 0	..	144	370	24 12 6	
26	8	2	436	301	9524	1255	112	2 6	..	6	8	2 1 11	
27	13	13	1530	986	39796	6969	567	3 4	..	41	20	3 13 9	
28	8	2	370	208	14645	3367	382	4 5	..	15	10	1 9 7	
	1320	741	71354	51871	2032650	385857	29072	..	..	2122	1111	197 8 11
29	..	..	..	380	1925	189	69	..	..	..	..	..
30	3	5	278	506	6753	802	70	2 91	5	2 15 8
31	..	4	..	328	2875	439	17	2 0
	3	9	278	1214	11553	1490	156	..	..	..	5	2 15 8
	1323	750	71632	53085	2044203	387347	29228	..	..	2122	1116	200 4 7
1	25	1	1623	118	38238	4657	486	2 0	..	49	22	3 6 8	
2	106	1	6239	100	134939	18330	1753	2 5	..	247	150	13 10 9	
3	1	..	100	..	5324	499	22	2 4	..	..	..	....
4	38	17	2286	1294	67758	11994	..	3 10	..	..	18	....

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
GLASGOW & SUBURBS—Con.									
Cadder	495	4219	66	448	2520	256	..	2134	822
Cambuslang	2220	40852	4418	2761	12615	11132	5245	26325	..
Clydebank	8523	140741	62015	10941	50338	58127	19113	91666	13109
Cowlairs	10397	153117	41853	21860	55423	31047	8881	150199	14483
Dalmuir	889	5976	10864	426	3841	11211	..	2837	1182
Dumbarton Equitable ..	4549	109372	34930	4568	27870	15997	..	109496	6406
Duntocher and Hardgate	524	3557	3591	647	2191	1641	1392	3115	738
East Kilbride	169	1697	882	547	529	429	1269	1239	199
Gilbertfield	1016	9489	14002	1661	4537	4535	2183	16801	..
Glasgow-D'py & Furnish.	3550	72654	95952	12646	73000	67098	..	37309	5785
" Eastern	12770	65674	66832	5915	46431	16766	13326	82685	6154
" Kinning Park	24050	246405	69934	30477	89881	84536	..	237066	12694
" London Road	2696	4927	17058	1808	4282	3242	680	17631	1247
" Progress	4703	62145	4963	1968	10690	2102	..	54915	3784
" St. George	10935	50054	204968	25069	86184	47032	27888	150057	10517
" St. Rollox	5941	38451	18003	5740	13659	16019	..	40860	3172
Kirkintilloch	2020	39395	297	3299	12615	10928	4730	19110	..
Lennox (Dumbarton) ..	2196	27078	6635	1523	16887	10837	2393	6510	6060
Lennoxtown	407	2908	1756	114	1497	2314	721	2900	646
Milngavie	808	10946	784	1078	2939	3476	..	7287	1052
Newton	336	3882	2061	421	1263	1416	548	3913	352
Rutherglen Vict'g & Bkg.	380	314	1343	565	808	1196	..	227	1590
Shettleston	7148	63236	58636	9283	35045	9444	14738	84290	722
Stonefield	380	3943	903	1048	2471	2146	..	1760	623
Tollcross	1629	4561	30655	2110	5495	8660	6540	20478	28
Uddingston	2220	8469	43279	3640	12287	7588	3424	37753	4409
Vale of Leven (Alexand'a)	5155	120220	7983	10889	38087	30805	12638	77362	401
Retail Societies Total	129797	1354249	811485	169569	636561	471790	136490	1335019	101224
Special Society—									
*Scottish Guild of Handi- craft	22	430	2051	..	1046	96	..	1331	..
Productive Societies—									
Glasgow-Civic Press	200	1833	551	1743	402	927	..	2298	1252
" Scottish Newspr	469	215	138	214	..	..	..	1702	640
" United Baking	4209	220903	298371	108191	75682	231728	4972	315884	25545
Produc. Societies Total	478	222951	299060	105148	76084	232655	4972	319884	27437
District Total	130297	1577630	1112596	274717	713691	704541	141462	1656234	128661
No. 8—PERTH, FORFAR, & ABERDEEN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib Societies—									
Aberdeen Northern	17894	159966	17055	..	35520	150995	124560	20599	484
Abernethy	201	195	25	..	252	338	..	399	66
Aberuthven	80	140	..	115	166	..	..	436	89
Arbroath Equitable	1757	22990	..	1344	7687	7532	1746	12633	1963
" Friendly Coal	2431	2269	..	970	605	690	365	208	2297
" High Street	1969	19135	9110	554	9685	12751	4000	4698	2024
" West Port	2139	16349	..	340	8769	5574	4270	2805	1214
Auchterarder Feus	275	3947	..	212	1137	815	791	1978	235
" Provident	230	1718	..	..	1093	441	..	1044	322
†Banff	317	..	682	..	411	66	..	..	16
Blairgowrie	337	1325	504	270	899	1004	..	759	490
Brechin United	3402	41481	1792	1440	10715	13736	5750	19466	3755
†Buckie	508	..	2492	..	1135	1284	..	..	147
Carnoustie Association ..	752	5520	3142	217	2930	3797	..	3973	690
" Equitable	501	1218	2927	101	1180	3646	..	202	872

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
5	24	1121		29873	3612	148	2 6	..	..	4	2 10 0
6	95	5366	1963	135371	18962	1640	2 6 1/2	..	82	90	10 12 0
7	580	28892	7088	549971	71896	6089	2 4	..	426	307	41 14 0
8	552	194	29160	10784	567868	80054	7408	2 5	..	1429	300 51 12 6
9	37	4	2272	226	48485	6024	218	2 4 1/2	..	23	4 4 7
10	181	67	9550	4526	226091	36098	4200	2 9 1/2	..	309	264 20 19 3
11	19	5	1136	613	32024	4355	111	2 7 1/2	..	42	2 4 0
12	6	2	286	90	8261	825	71	1 11	..	6	0 18 9
13	42	3	2812	253	80133	10974	461	2 7	..	103	70 4 19 0
14	191	217	14242	12841	230875	16013	3633	1 3	2620	..	392 14 0 0
15	266	79	19644	4334	428422	56430	2610	2 3 1/2	2970	761	562 54 8 0
16	851	148	51160	11541	920311	104366	10000	2 0	6212	3590	1085 115 12 11
17	51	5	3030	500	83414	10947	240	2 4 1/2	262	134	81 13 15 7
18	75	49	5347	4878	150021	2075	2801	..	..	24	73 22 2 0
19	759	124	52465	8500	802801	97517	2350	2 0 1/2	6275	1456	765 93 9 4
20	163	36	8950	2113	189978	24848	1582	2 4 1/2	..	292	164 28 11 5
21	146	42	4881	3103	109590	16327	1850	2 7 1/2	..	84	97 9 14 3
22	102	27	4409	2132	98785	14830	901	2 11	..	..	21
23	15	3	698	255	20644	2412	133	2 3 1/2	..	..	15 2 2 9
24	34	5	1747	381	40785	5165	294	2 4 1/2	..	56	17 4 4 0
25	10	2	695	168	22209	2406	192	2 0	..	14	23 1 14 3
26	..	3	430	321	16631	2616	3 9	..	..	..	.. .....
27	240	47	14783	2855	328148	47177	2987	2 7	..	478	206 35 4 8
28	12	5	552	595	24213	2419	143	2 7	..	..	11 2 0 0
29	49	18	3394	1002	86955	13717	1375	2 10 1/2	..	54	32 9 18 0
30	92	47	5210	3253	177651	24551	1910	2 8 1/2	..	..	117 10 19 0
31	188	89	12498	6413	296123	44536	4829	2 7 1/2	..	389	314 25 8 4
	4950	1380	294978	92249	5951892	757832	60437	..	18339	9969	5256 599 16 0
32	..	..	381	..	942	248	..	..	..	..	....
33	..	21	..	1837	4763	223	92	..	..	70	1 1 0
34	3	2	..	276	5002	160	11	..	..	17	1 0 0
35	445	1170	47111	83501	1188287	104539	10755	1 3 1/2	8421	1539	961 25 0 0
	448	1193	47147	85614	1198052	104922	10858	..	8421	1539	1048 27 1 0
	5398	2573	342506	177863	7150886	863002	71295	..	26760	11508	6304 626 17 0
1	1080	370	58062	28699	987445	160610	7997	2 10 1/2	..	85	555 92 10 8
2	1	2	66	130	3455	319	10	2 6	..	..	5 1 0 10
3	1	..	107	..	2878	321	7	2 6	..	..	.. .....
4	38	34	1800	1921	56480	8877	1104	2 9 1/2	..	..	62 8 19 0
5	10	..	919	..	8915	551	80	1 3	..	..	16
6	42	33	2103	1983	53623	7701	915	2 7	..	..	49 9 8 3
7	36	30	2289	1791	50378	7391	688	2 9	..	..	46
8	6	..	332	..	8527	1187	164	2 6	..	..	8
9	5	..	269	..	5196	761	89	2 6	..	..	3
10	3	..	93	..	1852	722	..	1 0	..	..	.. .....
11	9	3	415	338	11299	1407	59	2 6	..	..	1
12	64	44	3598	3241	93468	12230	1502	2 4	..	117	59 17 9 9
13	5	2	262	195	6509	278	..	1 6	..	..	.. .....
14	23	13	1190	1017	20339	1823	248	1 8	..	7	.. .....
15	7	4	358	445	8037	472	64	1 6	..	..	.. .....

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
PERTH, FORFAR, & ABERDEEN DISTRICT—Con.									
Crieff	216	781	2570	27	539	3103	..	340	261
Don (Port Elphinstone) ..	1065	7302	..	990	5362	4463	..	416	898
Dundee (City of)	2043	11357	453	2185	11057	3262	558	3274	3244
„ Coal Supply	2660	5354	..	341	698	1853	..	4338	469
„ Eastern	7726	85899	..	23842	42690	14330	17075	49987	12369
Dunning	61	119	..	72	92	4	..	178	41
† Elgin	385	..	857	..	586	96	..	..	138
Forfar Coal	1278	1194	..	139	251	265	150	403	1290
„ East Port Saving	324	527	831	100	674	492	684	1061	14
„ Free Trade Saving	462	729	1478	..	1578	1572	..	..	53
„ High Street	288	406	1436	..	747	1495	..	1090	32
„ Northern	244	306	811	7	521	1012	..	382	27
„ Victoria Coal	941	844	..	70	88	200	..	259	884
„ West Port	251	376	..	..	463	88	..	836	86
„ West Town	265	349	1243	..	445	1442	..	201	30
† Forres	558	..	1082	..	965	179	..	..	60
Fraserburgh	468	2590	1667	145	1352	2396	1500	760	405
Inverness	416	1023	45	119	634	75	..	807	333
Kirriemuir	1322	10224	..	..	6358	3697	..	3832	984
„ Coal	478	447	..	4	80	..	..	337	500
Monifeth Coal	130	100	..	46	36	..	..	122	113
Montrose B'k'g & Grocery ..	1418	1654	39	..	1434	1954	..	694	357
Muthill	129	203	..	142	275	..	..	185	170
Perth (City of)	7151	119549	26515	14681	74471	57375	14943	47105	39
„ Coal	2250	5587	..	1443	222	1445	524	5792	313
† Peterhead	1279	..	561	..	625	145	..	..	40
Strathisla	521	1752	300	169	1649	973	..	96	565
Thurso	1100	9292	..	1677	4333	3113	..	5312	994
Wick & Pulteney Town ..	421	1626	1000	20	858	2020	..	540	317
Retail Societies Total ..	68583	545843	78617	51782	240767	309718	176916	197547	40494
Productive Society— Auchterarder Baking ...	453	1823	36	123	276	1131	..	873	127
District Total	69036	547666	78653	51905	241043	310849	176916	198420	40621
No. 9—RENFREWSHIRE DIS.									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Barrhead	3365	59580	24966	8636	22837	17033	20527	38049	2603
Bridge of Weir	339	2735	844	155	909	768	1120	1091	320
Busby	333	3315	101	298	930	490	380	2051	269
Cathcart	880	8040	3375	843	2485	552	4361	6068	420
Greenock Central	8647	103480	28968	13825	47421	51641	26200	30627	6719
„ East End	1056	11300	11303	1523	6216	6224	4231	8642	799
Howwood	156	2568	39	155	273	57	..	2555	94
Hurlet and Nitshill	263	850	8474	576	1450	955	4684	3185	758
Johnstone	2084	48199	3965	3053	12108	12072	9795	23617	1621
Kilbarchan	556	13891	1727	906	2384	2139	1032	11801	378
Linwood	305	6834	21	512	1046	54	..	6172	911
Lochwinnoch	300	2953	3779	333	1332	1731	3194	1103	160
Newton Mearns	177	995	5717	222	721	925	1000	2511	320
Paisley Equitable	1829	23464	3120	383	8401	13225	..	9868	1255
„ Provident	9648	161019	18328	24232	38593	79847	9533	88805	5145
„ Underwood Coal	490	4189	1750	2612	1554	1938	..	6383	1506
Pollokshaws	1655	21160	1186	2257	4650	7607	..	7233	1007
Port Glasgow—Fore St. ..	2039	29837	1975	2209	10348	7349	2305	16522	1645
„ Provident	1884	34085	1169	2246	8447	6039	1920	25400	19
Renfrew Equitable	1963	16781	32252	2735	6241	6026	..	42464	1863
Thornliebank	574	17850	123	691	2054	1677	5697	9373	1808
Retail Societies Total ..	38543	573125	153182	68382	180398	218349	95979	353530	29801

* 1913 Figures. † Branch of S.C.W.S., the number given in membership column is the number of purchasers. ‡ Nine months' trading.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Charita- ble Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
16	5	2	255	179	5289	251	21	1 3	..	..	1 2 6
17	25	9	1186	498	22134	2573	367	2 11	..	..	....
18	68	18	4649	1955	60864	5621	483	1 9	..	76	11 0 0
19	27	..	2010	..	15040	£16	211	..	..	12	10 0 0
20	319	87	16863	7361	341626	53593	3600	2 11 1/2	..	..	....
21	2	..	51	..	1239	116	6	1 11	..	..	....
22	5	..	223	..	2914	61	..	1 0	..	..	....
23	2	..	149	..	5185	599	..	2 6	..	..	....
24	5	3	250	216	8933	1741	22	4 0	..	..	....
25	6	4	254	201	11438	2186	29	..	..	..	....
26	4	2	204	217	7491	1427	18	4 0	..	..	....
27	..	..	350	..	4683	853	48	..	..	..	....
28	9	..	152	..	3726	232	10	1 3	..	..	....
29	4	3	187	209	6996	1325	14	4 0	..	..	....
30	..	..	338	..	5081	979	..	..	..	..	....
31	4	..	188	..	4157	364	..	1 10	..	..	....
32	11	5	526	274	9389	697	122	1 4	..	1	2 7 11
33	9	2	351	191	8030	776	46	1 10	..	16	1 16 5
34	24	17	1500	1133	40366	4830	459	2 7	..	..	....
35	6	..	273	..	2514	313	19	2 6	..	..	....
36	3	..	74	..	804	34	3	1 0	..	1	....
37	20	..	1561	..	29948	4061	74	2 8	..	..	....
38	3	..	115	..	3334	219	4	1 6	..	..	....
39	320	200	14846	11657	335424	50224	5084	2 7	..	691	36 9 2
40	16	..	1580	..	14185	1011	222	£1 10	..	10	5 0 0
41	8	..	155	..	4895	593	..	2 0	..	..	....
42	7	5	426	352	10498	494	89	1 0	..	..	....
43	22	6	1212	280	24407	2398	385	2 0 1/2	..	4	28
44	2	3	138	171	2555	17	71	1 0	..	..	....
2266		901	121929	64744	2311546	342238	24334	..	..	1008	1059 197 4 6
45		4	151	331	4822	377	77	1 4 1/2	..	..	2
2270		904	122080	65075	2316368	342615	24411	..	..	1008	1061 197 4 6
1	135	69	6583	5159	169609	20639	2221	2 0 1/2	..	252	340 16 10 10
2	10	..	421	..	10771	1234	128	2 2 1/2	..	5	18 1 12 4
3	11	..	447	..	12299	1507	137	2 2 1/2	..	14	18 1 16 5
4	30	..	1753	..	33203	3967	359	2 2	..	..	12 4 4 10
5	311	96	18913	7690	365551	47515	3800	2 1 1/2	..	200	519 39 16 10
6	46	9	2240	936	54052	7365	402	2 6	..	..	41 5 0 2
7	3	..	189	..	6321	917	123	2 5	..	4	13 0 14 7
8	9	1	593	34	18922	3148	86	3 4 1/2	..	22	53 1 6 6
9	60	24	3747	2122	97949	13151	2058	2 0 1/2	..	104	145 10 8 0
10	23	5	1227	168	31172	4035	554	2 3 1/2	..	15	72 2 17 0
11	7	..	518	..	18272	2951	320	2 9 1/2	67	35	5 1 10 5
12	7	3	395	305	13049	1534	132	2 3	..	8	7 1 11 0
13	5	..	381	..	10021	1665	46	3 6	..	..	16 0 17 8
14	77	18	3366	1500	71665	8412	905	1 10 1/2	..	75	102 9 3 3
15	396	84	18013	8218	374263	48095	6909	1 10 1/2	..	977	366 46 8 0
16	40	..	4068	..	41640	4021	201	1 10 1/2	..	..	159 2 4 3
17	51	7	4191	549	81330	10897	826	2 6	..	157	135 7 19 1
18	83	25	3630	2037	107250	16951	1377	2 9	448	11	44 9 7 4
19	73	13	3474	1209	87580	14229	1624	2 9	..	9	81 10 0 0
20	77	5	4651	437	120119	16444	615	2 7	..	147	133 9 4 2
21	20	..	1430	..	32186	4760	680	2 5	34	..	53 2 18 9
1474		359	80230	30364	1757224	233437	23593	..	549	2035	2332 185 11 5

e Loss £16 after paying share interest. § Per ton.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.		
RENFREWSHIRE Dis—Con. Productive Societies— Paisley Manufacturing .. Scottish Laundries Asso- ciation (Barrhead)....	6268 h 78	60724 5060	70280 12852	9707 2367	31290 1225	38535 11547	6706 ..	74373 7005	16525 935	22 23
Prodnc. Societies Total	6346	65784	92132	12074	32515	50082	6706	81378	17460	
District Total	44889	638909	245314	80456	212913	268431	102685	434908	47261	
No. 10—STIRLING, WEST FIFE, AND CLACK- MANNAN DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies— †Aberfoyle.....	321		1094		541	493			156	1
Alloa	5289	95491	10157	8071	42879	35824	16357	41020	3154	2
Alva Bazaar	1177	24201	338	1674	7332	4325	600	15472	1307	3
Balforn	140	491		82	191			957	95	4
Bannockburn	1814	37213		5664	10529	13321	4029	18014	5728	5
Clackmannan	358	10022	182	616	1494	1519	773	7845	430	6
Coalsnaughton	252	2561	893	665	1637	1380	130	2270	771	7
Deanston	781	109	39	102	332	17		223		8
Dunblane	477	11835	34	519	2360	2455	545	8131	215	9
Menstrie	180	3002	1100	262	896	411	305	1873	228	10
Newtonshaw	790	13072	1335	1425	3819	3585	400	8648	1360	11
Stirling	4753	79783	2226	6432	22715	19417	10000	43284	1402	12
Tillicoultry	1412	16280	113	1620	6036	5160	1000	9601	1204	13
District Total	17044	294060	16511	27122	100761	86897	34139	157338	16050	
Wholesale Society— Scottish Wholesale (Glas- gow).....	o 262	522454	4042183	896963	1909564	659979	40434	2754150	578677	

† Branch of S.C.W.S. h Societies. o Societies, and 655 employee members.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.						Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Chari- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
22	82	378	7610	23302	211020	14233	2099	0 8	1128	..	390 25 0 0
23	..	215	..	11599	25382	1429	249	1 0	..	10	23 1 0 0
	82	593	7610	34901	236402	15602	3248	..	1128	10	413 26 0 0
	1556	952	87840	65265	1993626	249099	26841	..	1677	2045	2745 211 11 5
1	7	..	328	..	8690	839	..	2 0	..	..	..
2	176	127	11098	8339	265445	44036	3669	3 0	..	300	263 26 14 8
3	27	27	1593	1342	58176	9870	914	3 1	..	107	57 6 2 7
4	3	..	185	..	4845	416	18	1 9½	..	..	1 0 14 2
5	53	40	2998	2493	98371	17802	1638	3 3	..	..	47 9 3 4
6	8	7	422	686	23802	4168	435	3 2	..	14	28 1 16 7
7	6	4	367	281	17693	3225	112	3 7½	..	..	25 1 6 6
8	1	1	89	87	2834	376	6	2 8	..	..	..
9	15	3	832	315	17212	3249	589	3 0½	..	..	10 2 9 5
10	4	2	238	153	7328	1186	113	3 0½	..	4	10 0 18 9
11	27	18	1602	1281	41527	6790	521	3 0½	..	..	30 3 15 0
12	126	71	7946	5333	188050	31220	3770	2 10	..	236	55 24 14 9
13	40	39	2223	2060	63242	9789	642	2 11	..	100	77 7 7 1
	493	339	20921	22370	797215	132966	12427	..	..	761	603 85 2 10
	1440	II. 6867	130062	II. 463103	14502410	552116	25932	0 8	III. 10870	..	12820 132 0 0

II. Including buying branches and service departments.

III. Bonus equivalent.

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					Owing to the Society for Goods.
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.	House Property.	All other Investments.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
No. 1—AYRSHIRE.....	35	39111	714128	99569	49125	178511	207810	76060	465074	35508	1
„ 2—BORDER COUNTIES..	12	12112	183824	31826	19444	79731	75264	5899	114865	21691	2
„ 3—CENTRAL	42	53149	808899	498320	96974	306366	238285	74865	972513	84037	3
„ 4—EAST OF SCOTLAND.	20	93113	1530512	117280	332199	463813	506911	184849	1248335	118947	4
„ 5—FALKIRK	20	26128	447734	64323	33325	123212	118060	31626	331674	31421	5
„ 6—FIFE AND KINROSS..	31	42627	751327	25565	65231	225269	264416	29977	446868	31514	6
„ 7—GLASGOW & SUBURBS	35	130297	1577630	1112596	274717	713631	704541	141462	1656234	128661	7
„ 8—PERTH, FORFAR AND ABERDEEN	45	69036	547666	78653	51905	241043	310849	176916	198420	40621	8
„ 9—RENFREWSHIRE	23	44889	638909	245314	80456	212913	268431	102685	434908	47261	9
„ 10—STIRLING, WEST OF FIFE, & CLACKMANNAN	13	17044	294060	16511	27122	100761	86897	34139	157338	16050	10
WHOLESALE SOCIETY.....	1	262	522454	4042183	896963	1909564	659979	40434	2754159	578677	11
Totals, 1916.....	277	527768	8012143	6332140	1927511	4548874	3441443	898912	8780388	1134383	
Totals, 1915.....	276	492039	7459389	6098874	1860146	3750450	3489297	618967	8728422	849587	
Increase	1	35729	552754	233266	67365	798424	..	279945	51966	284796	
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	47854	..	..	..

Summary showing Members, Capital,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Distributive Societies	261	514327	7134290	1896277	903805	2516550	2454152	843432	5535583	502998
Productive Societies	14	13157	354969	451629	126743	121714	327216	15046	489315	52713
Special Society	1	22	430	2051	..	1046	96	..	1331	..
Wholesale Society	1	262	522454	4042183	896963	1909564	659979	40434	2754159	578677
Total for Section ..	277	527768	8012143	6332140	1927511	4548874	3441443	898912	8780388	1134383

SCOTTISH SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
			£	£	£	£	£	£	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
1	1212	592	64873	47425	1765688	251357	26352	24	1595	1969	185 1 3
2	390	240	22972	15403	559641	90996	7581	..	97	552	61 4 3
3	2047	1023	115639	77933	3397104	527088	32361	..	2439	4909	247 5 5
4	3333	1910	197141	134192	4406994	899537	54906	57	1310	3768	444 14 0
5	766	492	41977	30724	1311936	214963	16856	..	395	1187	103 11 10
6	1923	750	71632	53085	2044203	387347	29228	..	2122	1116	200 4 7
7	5398	2573	342506	177863	7150886	863002	71295	26760	11508	6304	626 17 0
8	2270	904	122080	65075	2316368	342615	24411	..	1008	1061	197 4 6
9	1556	952	87840	65265	1993626	249099	26841	1677	2045	2745	211 11 5
10	493	339	29921	22370	797215	132966	12427	..	761	603	85 2 10
11	1440	6867	130062	463103	14502410	552116	25932	10870	..	12820	132 0 0
	20228	16582	1226643	1152438	40246071	4511086	328190	39388	23280	36434	2494 17 1
	19348	18374	1112881	1067832	32771862	3965990	302971	45738	19276	29396	2323 13 9
	880	..	113762	84606	7474209	545156	25219	..	4004	7038	168 3 4
	..	1792	..	..	..	..	..	6350	..	..	..

Trade, &c., of various classes of Societies.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
18166	7699	1036277	547419	24065214	3809658	285497	18912	21675	21907	2295 0 5
622	2016	59923	141916	1677505	149064	16761	9606	1605	1707	67 16 8
..	..	281	..	942	248	..	..	..	..	....
1440	6867	130062	463103	14532410	552116	25932	10870	..	12820	132 0 0
20228	16582	1226643	1152438	40246071	4511086	328190	39388	23280	36434	2494 17 1

SOUTHERN

**RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties of
ISLE OF WIGHT, LONDON, KENT, MIDDLESEX, OXFORD,
arranged in their respective**

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem. bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital. £	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fndd.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—NORTH METRO- POLITAN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Anchor	1412	3264	834	380	2900	249	396	925	759
Brentwood	1506	10454	4585	608	3699	4483	2454	6237	403
Chesham	1234	11797	725	498	3850	6383	588	3784	184
Co-op. Brotherhood Trust	131	433	..	121	238	26	231	224	34
Croxley	423	2567	479	359	1670	1145	467	755	174
Edmonton	27628	123316	24922	11643	67998	80112	7785	34137	1436
Enfield Highway	9189	144828	10038	7597	47104	36026	2897	92276	1719
Epping	1380	7366	499	690	3270	3971	..	3539	460
*Euston	782	281	..	214	1133	..	..	1837	..
Gothic (Edmonton)	85	93	..	100	222	27	..	153	125
Grays	7140	61454	5102	6774	31328	35111	713	16375	2473
Hendon	2115	7949	4160	501	5992	7015	600	997	402
London Perseverance	307	431	135	23	266	173	..	233	39
Railway Clearing House.	1245	1542	3471	1122	3570	1180	..	1798	1276
at St. Clements	130	161	..	20	64	43	..	82	6
Stratford	40803	467267	7576	15931	128549	226446	55217	172247	..
Watford	6679	47691	9891	4584	23573	21879	..	24429	657
West London	10701	47500	7209	1209	23225	23035	2475	17246	502
Willesden and District ..	4555	15564	14982	963	12303	11204	7198	4154	341
Willesden Junc. Railway	430	3840	208	164	1121	34	..	3728	29
Yiewsley & West Drayton	1380	6449	3279	529	3995	5683	221	2144	541
Retail Societies Total	119255	964257	98005	54030	366070	464225	81242	387300	11560
Supply Associations—									
Civil Service Supply	7526	353920	57722	127347	325688	201895	24567	96799	35331
Canteen and Mess (Lon- don)	380	12427	3563	93689	21531	34979	..	108492	114850
Supply Total	7906	366347	61285	221036	347219	236874	24567	205291	150181
Special Society—									
d Motor Cab	124	975	3263	60	57	38860	..	226	..
Productive Societies—									
Chesham Boot and Shoe ..	100	2067	1342	1086	2600	1514	..	799	1346
Co-op. Bass Dressers	57	363	..	2276	598	..	..	3067	509
King's Cross Publishing ..	8	150	1000	1500	10	..	..	2111	1062
London Bookbinders	77	371	..	14	111	56	..	303	96
London Clothiers	90	1336	201	620	1762	118	..	379	781
Woodworkers Limited (Letchworth)	7	8430	16896	2208	4422	13130	3362	212	6968
Produc. Societies Total	339	12717	19439	7704	9503	14818	3362	6871	10762
District Total	127624	1344206	182082	582830	722849	719777	109171	599688	172503

* 1913 Figures. , † Nine months' trading. d 1914 Figures. x Cabs.

SECTION.

BEDFORD, BERKS, BUCKS, CAMBRIDGE, DORSET, ESSEX, HANTS, HERTS, NORFOLK, SUFFOLK, SURREY, SUSSEX, and WILTS, for 1916, Conference Districts.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	20	6	1026	591	34714	478	103	0 6	..	22	14 6 11 3
2	30	4	2024	454	37153	2739	508	1 11	..	51	18 7 14 8
3	21	8	1271	672	33259	2705	538	1 51	..	36	17 6 3 0
4	1	..	123	..	1482	45	3	0 8	..	1	1 0 13 8
5	9	2	478	170	16291	1549	115	1 9	48	..	8 2 3 0
6	575	129	40008	14942	496936	31343	5432	1 0	..	771	300 126 4 0
7	238	29	18257	3473	288354	23713	6730	1 3	..	501	318 42 12 0
8	28	5	1667	345	31743	2242	316	1 11	45	45	40 6 4 5
9	..	..	316	..	24979	1085	28	..	..	..	....
10	1	..	80	..	1772	133	..	0 8 1/2	..	..	....
11	..	..	..	..	241620	20594	2182	..	286	487	147 36 7 11
12	37	7	2190	514	28310	1945	322	0 9	52	26	14 6 8 0
13	4	..	197	..	3525	128	11	0 6 1/2	4	..	4 1 11 3
14	24	..	1041	..	18952	646	154	0 7	..	..	2
15	1	..	46	..	551	6	..	1 0	..	..	....
16	1301	231	79444	25408	1120520	83612	24831	1 1	..	595	213 204 13 11
17	131	24	8232	2239	170252	17170	2232	1 8	..	89	147 31 19 8
18	155	23	12996	2480	167555	8453	2007	0 10	..	128	128 51 5 5
19	83	11	5336	1048	75639	4248	611	0 10	82	71	16 19 15 0
20	10	..	649	..	11895	993	185	1 4	..	..	4 2 5 10
21	36	6	2006	454	36288	2718	269	1 0	98	42	8 6 5 0
2705		485	177387	52790	2841790	206539	46586	..	615	2865	1399 558 18 0
22	1454	203	130197	20771	1618828	48363	..	..	..	..	181 38 16 .6
23	..	..	45237	..	1740600	42767	621	..	..	..	27 5 5 0
1454		203	175434	20771	3350428	91130	621	..	..	..	208 44 1 6
24	24	..	505	..	3841	..	48	..	..	..	....
25	..	60	..	5450	25526	1208	81	..	201	2	38 0 10 0
26	2	15	473	1164	6562	700	28	..	344	72	30 0 7 0
27	..	3	..	674	4646	325	..	..	..	..	.. 0 5 0
28	..	5	..	375	756	40	..	..	..	..	.. 0 8 2
29	4	22	480	2110	6830	240	64	1 0	56	..	13 0 10 6
30	..	..	..	3313	10896	302	..	..	..	..	....
6		105	953	13086	55216	2473	173	..	601	74	81 2 0 9
4189		793	354279	86647	6260275	300142	47428	..	1216	2939	1688 605 0 3

v Cab earnings. e Loss after paying Share Interest.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serves Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 2—SOUTH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Addington	17	99	103	252	212	4		406	52
Addlestone	1741	10255	822	884	5293	3222	345	5266	667
Bromley and Crays	8602	59670	11029	2492	28942	34604	13853	10354	3703
Croydon	7595	33415	9144	1908	19688	23348	4175	6362	407
Godalming	1524	20195	1403	136	9859	7431	2583	3353	886
Gomshall	338	2608	491	161	1128	565	638	1182	140
Guildford	3212	40326	1438	8124	15604	18531	7735	15934	804
Haslemere	1170	12422	1726	919	4100	4651	1401	6697	551
Penge and Beckenham ..	3567	21752	3173	553	10696	7862	259	8645	1123
Staines	2455	14623	855	1039	7845	7813	827	2333	112
Woking	2160	13810	15775	824	6669	9481	14453	2188	254
Woolwich (Royal Ars'n'l)	54882	688670	62526	81943	190006	247435	94943	395870	2844
Retail Societies Total	87263	917845	108545	99505	300942	364997	141212	458590	11543
Productive Society—									
*Greenwich Bread & Flour	80	912	..	130	46	905	..	91	..
District Total	87343	918757	108545	99635	300988	365902	141212	458681	11543
No. 3—KENT DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Ashford	2447	27247	6235	1356	11160	10750	4850	10057	460
Canterbury	779	2487	4	346	946	1072	..	1375	324
Chatham and District...	3639	46812	12561	1495	23122	20819	1449	19178	1631
Dartford	2744	21202	7089	1766	11693	10799	2517	6497	1207
Faversham	1817	25335	1493	1287	8418	4314	4671	13970	739
Folkestone	3658	47304	9339	3818	20377	22928	..	23386	1459
Gillingham	6711	86504	22373	8427	38529	31542	..	63918	1328
Gravesend (Borough of)	2543	15526	2696	930	11061	7466	..	1961	557
Greenstreet	435	3599	..	441	2492	988	433	1313	186
Maidstone	867	2889	2163	249	2696	1922	531	669	382
Rainham	700	6686	663	564	5393	1841	278	1750	90
Ramsgate	794	3399	638	275	2178	1852	..	504	295
River and District	5440	65152	3560	3268	21683	21681	3472	31883	5677
Rochester and District..	3486	23621	8565	868	12703	17833	..	2790	927
Sheerness	4016	58220	3538	2842	30635	16598	6551	15066	2432
„ Economical ..	2919	29192	612	2965	8247	11981	4350	13917	659
Sittingbourne	4096	55328	9243	5788	12600	14806	5227	45670	864
Tonbridge	744	3760	2963	290	5485	1000	..	725	280
Walmer and Mongeham ..	710	4418	409	150	2465	3067	..	802	396
Retail Societies Total	48545	528681	94144	37125	231903	203259	34329	255440	19893
Productive Societies—									
Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour	622	3474	3186	200	901	5522	..	28	1473
Medway Barge Builders and Carriers	179	2784	3233	..	735	5289	..	10	193
Produc. Societies Total	801	6258	6419	200	1636	10811	..	38	1666
District Total	49346	534939	100563	37325	233539	214070	34329	255478	21559

* 1913 Figures.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	1	..	49	..	2605	222	5	1 0	..	..	..	0 1 9
2	34	6	2333	509	43963	3518	463	1 2	141	61	17	8 5 3
3	211	16	12913	3669	195635	12171	2777	0 10	..	176	98	43 2 6
4	157	18	8983	1850	124928	7789	1428	1 0	..	162	108	31 5 5
5	56	7	2752	362	43983	2889	916	1 0	..	20	8	7 2 1
6	8	2	513	225	9701	338	124	1 0	14	10	8	1 13 8
7	100	14	6923	1334	108318	11097	1736	1 8	..	194	39	14 1 3
8	23	3	1586	264	30675	2729	539	1 4	34	33	51	5 3 2
9	72	12	4651	1379	67341	4576	918	0 11	..	77	..	15 5 0
10	60	10	4054	734	57884	3908	622	0 11	197	102	40	11 19 2
11	59	5	3108	544	47564	3089	595	1 0	53	62	40	10 8 4
12	1351	362	104216	38009	1588962	126527	25416	1 1	4655	2266	497	247 8 1
13	2112	455	152081	48879	2321559	178853	35539	..	5094	3163	906	395 15 8
	..	..	..	235	1173	56	41	..	..	..	..	....
	2112	455	152081	49114	2322732	178909	35580	..	5094	3163	906	395 15 8
1	63	3	3420	190	58632	5693	1180	1 5 1	188	118	55	12 10 6
2	10	5	592	215	12684	780	74	1 1 1	..	18	20	3 7 8
3	114	18	7339	1459	111669	9910	2184	1 4 1	..	201	33	17 10 4
4	71	15	5535	1454	101575	8220	953	1 6	..	180	119	12 18 3
5	58	9	3531	774	70666	6444	951	1 6	..	77	75	7 16 4
6	102	13	6124	1170	117212	12188	2173	1 8	..	..	61	17 9 6
7	208	109	14248	7080	254724	26062	3330	1 9	..	316	191	34 2 10
8	78	7	4525	696	62820	3225	728	0 10	..	59	17	12 14 8
9	7	3	580	148	11810	858	135	1 6	24	25	..	2 1 2
10	16	4	920	231	17781	248	139	0 3	19	2	4	4 10 5
11	17	9	1146	438	22337	1904	239	1 6	..	30	24	3 10 0
12	11	2	780	157	13884	740	147	0 11 1	..	16	7	4 13 6
13	149	44	8362	2791	166808	16315	3045	1 9	..	120	56	26 1 8
14	76	6	4777	587	77883	4425	1114	0 10	..	106	40	15 12 6
15	124	34	6656	2433	124474	13941	2204	1 9 1	346	180	74	19 10 0
16	66	25	4098	2016	72887	7869	1125	2 0	68	82	153	14 18 10
17	119	30	7359	2243	155960	19422	2081	2 2 1	..	130	347	20 4 10
18	7	5	723	320	20156	1019	165	0 11 1	..	22	8	3 6 3
19	12	4	554	378	14897	863	188	1 0	..	..	7	3 10 3
20	1308	345	81269	24780	1488859	140156	22155	...	645	1676	1291	236 9 6
	24	11	1635	1224	32124	2871	171	1 10	..	..	4	....
	9	7	666	607	2545	311	..	..	..	..	1	1 1 0
	33	18	2301	1831	34679	3182	171	..	..	..	5	1 1 0
21	1341	363	83570	26611	1523538	143338	22326	..	645	1676	1296	237 10 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
No. 4—SUSSEX DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Arundel	673	4136	1531	735	2494	1341	697	2411	72
Brighton	5689	50460	6064	2913	20340	19960	10583	13157	1992
Crawley and Ifield	536	2952	617	290	1803	1344	..	1162	13
Hastings, St. Leonards and Bexhill	477	890	128	5	713	102	..	632	145
Haywards Heath	1220	8354	2058	606	4727	6118	..	1419	574
Lewes	1866	21960	4199	331	6268	7815	10129	3757	1557
Newhaven	2508	21203	6873	572	9945	11689	3949	4920	2382
Reigate	1800	24212	9332	771	3788	11767	15411	4475	1257
Tunbridge Wells	2608	14866	2319	1024	5607	5421	1896	6099	940
District Total	17377	149033	33121	7247	55685	65557	42665	38032	8932
No. 5—HANTS. DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aldershot	2795	16665	4368	430	7583	12408	650	2806	345
Andover	1674	11229	398	1254	6776	3986	687	3530	183
Basingstoke	1460	10923	1358	1144	6234	2474	..	5664	530
Cowes	2680	14492	13111	1014	11887	10836	3396	5889	762
Eastleigh	1854	13141	7320	609	9417	10144	977	1950	728
Farnham and District ..	1717	6376	2310	499	3599	5012	..	1690	..
*Forton Coal	800	147	..	21	..	..	..	199	..
Parkstone & Bournemouth	5471	29702	5780	2395	16003	19075	1949	6380	..
Petersfield	400	1688	262	91	786	1199	..	625	177
Portsea Island	15697	192127	15643	8623	72845	77441	14568	70576	2760
Ringwood	459	2705	199	86	2516	..	215	780	56
Romsey	399	970	64	233	1045	228	..	461	118
Shanklin Lake and Branstone Union	645	6166	1722	314	2888	2273	2095	1496	402
Southampton	7304	49971	7653	3583	25908	21422	6865	12442	2156
Winchester	1596	11193	5214	764	7358	7461	960	1772	853
Retail Societies Total	44951	367495	65602	21060	174845	173959	32362	116260	9070
Special Society—Farnham and Alton Farmers	125	474	768	908	272	..	..	1000	3750
Productive Society—Portsmouth Printers ...	103	311	885	..	71	783	..	50	132
District Total	45179	368280	67255	21968	175188	174742	32362	117310	12952
No. 6—WILTS AND DORSET DISTRICT—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Amesbury	150	443	..	194	351	200	..	392	..
Bradford-on-Avon	887	10236	2000	480	2895	2352	64	8196	546
Calne	491	2065	1034	231	1719	836	138	1276	171
*Childe Okeford	274	901	300	1059	932	996	..	932	..
Chippenham	1910	11821	3264	873	7625	6196	..	4893	695
Devizes	952	4648	937	382	3843	1518	..	1270	962
Mere	498	2171	1375	176	1407	2175	..	381	646
Salisbury	1860	16675	1384	1237	3528	4705	121	14277	392

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
					Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Educa- tional Pur- poses.					Charit- able Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.		
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	13	3	736	179	15298	1072	186	1 14	35	11	14	3 1 4
2	171	25	10346	2072	137119	10565	2337	1 1	541	193	73	26 6 4
3	20	2	944	189	15121	915	137	1 0	..	16	25	2 9 6
4	9	2	475	183	6662	175	32	0 6	..	4	1	2 2 10
5	22	5	1357	357	24629	2013	325	1 4	..	13	6	2 7
6	37	3	2107	267	38859	3510	876	1 3	147	72	57	9 9 8
7	70	14	4199	1574	81574	3221	949	0 10 1/2	..	73	17	11 18 0
8	58	..	3994	..	41228	2776	1085	0 8 1/2	..	16	7	9 11 8
9	62	8	3667	713	55328	3263	580	0 10 1/2	125	73	68	11 5 10
	462	62	27825	5534	415818	27510	6507	..	848	458	275	82 7 9
1	55	11	4113	853	54026	2793	736	0 9 1/2	..	53	13	9 4 4
2	35	11	2417	749	47457	3893	533	1 6	199	88	22	8 2 10
3	37	6	2263	465	40980	3410	511	1 4	..	73	4	6 10 3
4	66	34	3512	2008	87190	8218	674	1 6	102	183	39	13 0 5
5	49	16	2992	1301	59661	4766	571	1 4	66	97	17	8 15 4
6	27	5	1540	346	25747	1688	242	1 0	24	32	38	4 16 4
7	..	..	26	..	2090	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	98	11	5313	1336	100924	7385	1230	1 3	127	127	48	22 2 10
9	5	3	395	147	8648	488	74	1 0	..	9	..	1 17 5
10	446	121	22813	11224	398898	33648	8471	1 3	1531	753	175	73 1 2
11	7	..	447	..	9261	379	87	0 10	9	8	2	1 8 5
12	9	3	603	98	9647	536	39	1 0	..	11	..	1 14 9
13	18	4	1102	276	19377	1150	272	1 0	..	21	24	3 4 7
14	188	23	12271	2596	156469	11303	2304	1 1	..	198	200	34 2 0
15	40	8	2453	798	48363	3008	494	1 1 1/2	..	77	24	3 15 6
	1080	256	62260	22197	1068738	82670	16238	..	2058	1730	606	191 16 2
16	1	..	76	..	21588	460	24	..	..	..	..	....
17	..	6	..	376	797	122	..	..	..	..	..	....
	1081	262	62336	22573	1091123	83252	16262	..	2058	1730	606	191 16 2
1	4	1	166	52	4941	250	16	1 0	..	..	1	0 14 6
2	21	5	1083	372	24060	2502	393	1 7	..	15	28	4 4 4
3	8	3	354	240	10485	787	90	1 3	..	15	35	2 5 5
4	..	..	212	..	7509	535	40	..	..	..	..	....
5	42	8	1721	600	56889	5550	480	1 8	..	88	19	9 5 4
6	22	5	1310	429	20596	1158	201	1 0	24	..	13	4 16 10
7	10	3	488	197	12372	1058	95	1 6	..	..	3	2 4 8
8	28	6	1908	526	41066	3774	720	1 5	96	55	13	9 12 0

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Investments.	
WILTS AND DORSET DISTRICT—con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trowbridge	4588	53689	10778	4041	15953	17357	12878	26355	2101
Warminster	764	5399	1174	806	2696	1777	..	3156	531
Weymouth	3744	26455	1847	1451	16183	11466	650	4562	1177
Wilton	277	3188	..	170	1009	752	290	1313	116
Retail Societies Total	16395	137691	24093	11100	58141	50330	14141	67003	7337
Productive Society— Sherston Co-op. Milling..	41	434	816	137	216	531	..	278	785
District Total	16436	138125	24909	11237	58357	50861	14141	67281	8122
No. 7—OXFORD DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aldermaston	106	728	..	71	560	103	..	357	494
Banbury	5619	78279	6559	3597	24666	30856	11954	28766	4633
Carterton (Agric. and Dist.)	95	667	..	22	397	430	..	211	38
Chipping Norton	2422	37701	2715	1322	11040	11880	4030	19446	1702
†High Wycombe	1100	4754	1786	75	2757	3712	..	818	325
Kingshill	1691	3956	481	125	1639	4317	340	1977	282
Maidenhead	778	3136	2844	23	4249	1470	..	546	204
*Middleton Stoney	96	1069	..	99	450	32	..	797	..
New Swindon Industrial.	5126	41765	11132	3520	23841	17597	603	19578	1226
Oxford	11350	118350	11922	5045	45564	31429	37440	32952	3815
Reading	10863	182664	5956	3171	29629	54855	41411	78619	6022
Slough	2181	17333	1831	456	9201	8226	1800	2137	..
Sunningdale	280	600	218	126	914	68	..	195	90
Windsor	1196	7917	865	337	4007	3817	..	1770	340
Retail Societies Total	42903	498919	46309	17989	158914	168792	97578	188169	19171
Productive Societies— New Swindon Provident.	3348	4962	1473	883	899	4864	194	38	4088
Oxford Builders	48	595	406	116	196	158	414	275	135
Produc Societies Total	3396	5557	1879	999	1095	5022	608	313	4223
District Total	46299	504476	48188	18088	160009	173814	98186	188482	23394
No. 8—CAMBRIDGE DIST.— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Arlesey	610	5708	18	815	790	1235	1614	4353	49
Bishop's Stortford	369	1537	1575	144	1177	1737	..	656	150
Burwell	294	1199	4	201	961	304	..	627	19
Cambridge	7420	59662	9496	5721	23773	25971	916	28189	1000
Chatteris	505	3670	..	307	1223	629	..	2485	177
Ely	1147	6338	1179	384	4095	2682	..	830	497
†Garden City Co-operators	724	2701	700	39	1160	2173	..	496	200
Hitchin	475	1822	680	153	1435	773	..	753	287
Newmarket	1745	19429	1785	786	8000	8787	224	6744	966
Potton	324	3282	..	424	645	44	..	3208	..
St. Neots	436	1064	915	186	1359	852	..	298	127
Saffron Walden	592	2668	376	182	963	1576	..	866	95

* 1913 Figures

† 42 weeks' trading.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
9	107	19	6276	1588	129201	13589	1982	1 11	..	57	102	22 14 0
10	15	5	769	296	21688	1336	200	1 2	..	..	9	3 19 0
11	92	17	4529	2330	89703	7209	1130	1 4	..	60	42	17 4 4
12	5	1	252	73	7637	319	143	1 3	..	..	2	1 5 10
13	354	73	19068	6703	426147	38157	5490	..	120	290	267	78 6 3
	..	4	..	155	6590	114	22	0 6	..	..	1	0 5 0
	354	77	19068	6858	432737	38271	5512	..	120	290	268	78 11 3
1	3	1	200	68	5575	239	32	1 2	..	..	..	..
2	108	66	6242	4589	171067	14834	2997	1 6	..	244	77	21 0 0
3	3	..	130	..	3732	267	27	1 3	..	5	2	0 9 0
4	67	21	4020	1309	87641	9827	1770	1 9 1/2	..	89	179	12 10 0
5	19	3	1006	256	13738	707	156	0 9	..	7	3	5 14 7
6	13	10	870	775	17900	2638	184	2 10 1/2	..	..	..	..
7	13	4	725	272	10148	344	138	0 5 1/2	..	3	3	3 14 7
8	..	..	126	..	2292	195	43	..	..	..	..	0 10 0
9	118	17	6813	1488	117755	11560	1747	1 9	287	273	28	23 5 0
10	245	43	12807	3110	247051	28728	5767	1 8	..	556	164	57 15 2
11	197	70	14725	6788	265269	29190	7227	1 6	1055	526	1063	54 5 0
12	55	9	2637	650	47021	3129	791	1 0	48	50	30	10 12 3
13	2	..	141	..	6272	341	24	1 0	..	7	2	1 6 0
14	21	3	1459	239	20598	1280	366	0 10	..	24	17	6 4 8
15	864	247	51901	19544	1016059	103279	21269	..	1390	1784	1568	197 6 3
	16	12	1112	1003	32587	5116	238	3 0	..	..	6	..
	..	9	..	635	936	37	29	..	..	3	2	0 6 6
	16	21	1112	1638	33523	5153	267	..	..	3	8	0 6 6
16	880	268	53013	21182	1049582	108432	21536	..	1390	1787	1576	197 12 9
1	8	4	422	215	17339	1703	215	1 8 1/2	..	..	9	2 19 11
2	9	1	452	78	6413	355	69	0 11	..	7	2	1 17 8
3	5	..	292	..	6191	666	56	2 6	..	..	6	1 9 6
4	179	26	10182	2122	157830	14222	2310	1 6	..	160	47	37 3 4
5	8	3	447	143	11574	1234	157	1 11 1/2	..	..	7	2 9 0
6	21	4	1195	266	26548	2035	244	1 6	..	15	9	5 14 7
7	15	..	643	..	12228	700	103	1 0	..	29	6	3 15 5
8	6	3	395	133	8487	494	77	1 0	22	9	3	1 17 6
9	60	8	3355	572	47767	3824	854	1 4	..	44	12	8 15 0
10	6	..	272	..	6014	707	126	1 9	..	12	7	1 12 0
11	9	2	558	82	8775	428	45	1 0	..	..	2	2 5 7
12	10	2	455	198	9780	581	113	1 0	..	9	6	2 11 10

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
							House Property.	All other Investments.		
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT—con		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Sawston	1173	11245	1609	946	5642	2518	502	5244	303	13
Soham	171	732	361	40	568	450	..	412	115	14
Retail Societies Total	15985	121057	18098	10328	51841	53731	3256	55170	3994	
Productive Society— Garden City Press	175	8852	10360	..	3196	10443	..	171	4908	15
District Total	16160	129909	28458	10328	55037	64174	3256	55341	8902	
No. 9—NORFOLK DIST.—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Beccles	1891	14703	9687	1017	11341	8300	1830	6338	1288	1
Brandon	325	1315	712	372	1082	895	..	909	200	2
Bury St. Edmunds	1375	6468	14	276	4223	1856	..	2281	840	3
Cromer	592	1873	14	517	2073	..	..	1323	..	4
Diss	489	2813	..	593	1031	55	..	2370	241	5
Fakenham	478	2204	14	281	1026	169	..	2061	73	6
Great Yarmouth	2401	9895	2464	874	4684	7384	..	3313	414	7
King's Lynn	2830	5699	5724	786	4731	5169	1472	3681	461	8
Lakenheath	171	480	154	100	610	295	..	314	..	9
Lowestoft	2176	17214	3290	756	12488	9369	..	1717	671	10
Melton Constable	400	2768	9	5	1908	1073	..	1042	107	11
Norwich	10486	123187	14015	11018	39665	38163	8436	78203	..	12
Sheringham	598	4301	15	781	1514	600	..	3245	283	13
Swaffham	574	2753	147	300	1524	505	..	1543	232	14
Thetford	1368	7847	683	511	6500	1963	30	3458	80	15
Wymondham	601	4207	479	232	2655	1187	..	1077	541	16
District Total	26755	212727	37421	18419	97055	76983	11768	112875	5431	
No. 10—ESSEX & SUFFOLK DISTRICT—										
Retail Distrib. Societies—										
Braintree & West Essex	1601	15628	3092	785	6467	7104	1367	5357	648	1
Chelmsford Star	4286	50293	141	3364	21786	13121	1891	20188	905	2
Clacton	705	5496	288	1455	995	1614	..	5046	42	3
Coggeshall	361	1741	513	149	986	1007	..	608	209	4
Colchester	9247	107970	5425	8397	26443	35688	28519	41402	688	5
Dunmow	233	1429	59	110	798	75	..	978	57	6
Earls Colne	318	4252	570	35	678	1385	475	2776	45	7
Halstead	1674	14914	3286	1699	5888	5030	4165	6911	725	8
Harwich, Dovercourt, & Parkstone	1834	20026	1768	2675	13525	8409	2118	1798	1257	9
Haverhill	1833	11431	15819	2493	8488	10927	1321	11436	908	10
Ipswich	12788	148520	18488	12764	62322	69184	8175	59514	820	11
Lavenham	161	465	392	78	643	..	..	422	5	12
Leiston	1159	13818	95	775	4118	2187	3560	6518	57	13
Maldon and Heybridge	1293	8455	2092	858	7227	3149	169	2185	438	14
Stowmarket	1602	4336	2293	2229	4368	5255	..	1502	40	15
Terling	173	1374	1071	139	577	15	..	2134	..	16
Tiptree	765	4973	1087	156	2700	2626	336	1035	178	17
Wickham Market	508	3909	206	371	1275	2035	..	1614	..	18
Witham	788	10596	1046	1223	4228	2512	4386	3192	293	19
Woodbridge	463	1183	..	205	1589	575	..	199	..	20
Retail Societies Total	41792	430809	57731	39960	175101	171898	56482	174815	7384	
Special Society— Mersea Isl'nd Fisherm'n's	86	141	..	43	42	14	..	176	24	21
Total District	41878	430950	57731	40003	175143	171912	56482	174991	7408	

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s d.
13	22	5	1049	399	24500	1954	385	1 6	..	26	3	6 2 6
14	3	..	160	..	4431	262	35	1 6½	..	..	..	....
	361	58	19877	4208	347877	29165	4789	..	22	311	119	78 13 10
15	..	120	..	6332	15116	2161	220	..	..	..	..	1 1 0
	361	178	19877	10540	362993	29165	5009	..	22	311	119	79 14 10
1	55	11	2693	552	60449	6087	656	1 10	..	60	50	9 0 6
2	6	2	309	78	10975	1660	60	3 0	..	..	3	1 13 4
3	24	4	1018	224	23742	2563	211	1 10	..	..	6	6 5 0
4	15	2	725	118	14536	1126	77	1 6	16	25	6	2 18 9
5	8	3	570	100	12760	1206	124	1 9	..	..	11	2 9 1
6	10	..	523	..	11922	979	100	1 6	..	16	3	2 10 0
7	50	7	2741	652	44686	3248	453	1 2	..	30	4	1 1 0
8	63	12	3256	868	57779	3990	219	1 8	66	124	15	12 14 2
9	3	..	139	..	4556	348	23	1 10	..	..	2	..
10	85	15	3879	854	70648	5127	754	1 7	74	87	29	11 2 6
11	10	..	528	..	8008	129	115	0 4½	..	3	..	2 1 8
12	313	42	17004	3100	336746	38429	5834	1 9½	1715	418	112	52 19 8
13	8	7	598	234	13431	1199	194	1 8	..	5	15	3 1 1
14	11	3	416	138	12471	1005	123	1 6	..	22	13	2 14 8
15	46	5	1820	319	44328	8139	346	3 10	..	..	92	7 9 7
16	9	2	657	119	16937	1295	181	1 6	..	26	8	2 12 0
	716	115	36876	7356	746974	76530	9470	..	1871	816	369	120 13 0
1	40	8	2057	440	37565	3075	587	1 4	..	58	13	7 8 0
2	129	22	7007	1508	127114	12087	2365	1 6½	..	..	72	19 12 0
3	10	4	653	307	15403	1596	246	1 4	..	33	9	3 10 5
4	5	4	333	170	7554	617	80	1 6	..	..	3	1 17 1
5	260	71	12556	4951	222502	20682	4122	1 5	..	353	210	46 6 8
6	4	..	223	..	5390	302	67	1 0	..	4	1	1 4 4
7	3	2	235	114	7469	754	146	1 8	..	11	2	1 12 6
8	45	12	2062	617	38161	2245	552	0 11½	..	20	66	8 11 4
9	113	20	5468	1098	104778	7786	922	1 6	123	195	127	8 8 0
10	51	32	2853	1829	70960	5582	446	1 11	..	60	29	8 17 1
11	355	97	20578	7241	389046	39506	5747	1 8	..	651	503	63 0 0
12	2	..	103	..	2575	200	23	1 6	..	..	..	..
13	22	..	942	..	27326	3152	457	2 0	..	..	33	5 15 5
14	36	8	2042	580	32013	2778	336	1 7	..	63	36	6 9 6
15	46	6	2361	372	41430	2738	123	1 3	50	93	18	7 10 0
16	2	..	156	..	4243	330	51	1 8	..	..	..	..
17	16	2	909	121	14797	937	229	1 0	..	..	5	3 19 8
18	11	3	456	300	13100	919	191	1 2½	..	16	7	2 11 4
19	21	4	1276	281	23124	2506	493	2 0	27	55	11	4 2 0
20	8	3	478	182	7997	625	48	1 6½	..	..	..	....
	1179	298	62748	20111	1192547	108417	17231	..	200	1612	1145	200 15 4
21	2	..	73	..	952	114	4	1 6	..	3	1	....
	1181	298	62821	20111	1193499	108531	17235	..	200	1615	1146	200 15 4

e Loss after paying share interest.

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 11—BEDS. AND BUCKS. DISTRICT—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aylesbury	1185	11654	432	917	4336	5678	298	3938	306 1
Bedford	2375	11853	2811	824	4990	6524	1425	5199	.. 2
Berkhampstead	1040	12994	6967	1047	6638	6882	6618	2629	503 3
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford	930	9944	619	800	3738	4259	1068	3321	280 4
Grandborough	41	27	..	85	55	..	..	121	.. 5
Hemel Hempstead (Boro' of)	733	4317	568	182	2586	2634	..	977	162 6
Leighton Buzzard	860	8648	220	330	2607	2180	2819	1928	654 7
Luton	6339	78907	15570	4086	16925	16183	23273	46168	476 8
Newport Pagnell	655	3893	732	192	2301	2009	140	839	395 9
Olney	310	752	125	120	883	190	..	247	125 10
Radlett	224	2624	893	359	1484	1960	..	577	329 11
Ravenstone	66	196	..	85	153	5	..	185	4 12
St. Albans	1550	7224	404	329	2816	3601	..	2247	536 13
Silsoe	317	1126	..	213	970	..	..	715	40 14
Stony Stratford	802	14325	1055	255	5075	3586	670	6818	289 15
Swanbourne	90	165	103	95	405	..	..	78	45 16
Tring	999	16907	1142	506	2978	3371	6894	5844	371 17
Wolverton	2348	40103	12557	1978	12996	10708	9116	25339	1215 18
District Total	20864	224750	44198	12403	71936	69770	52321	107170	5730

No. of Employees on Dec. list.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
					Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.						Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	22	5	1375	550	29238	2644	512	1 3½	47	..	2 15 2
2	57	7	2840	725	54571	3890	525	1 5	87	11	9 10 10
3	37	11	1722	834	40887	3241	597	1 3	66	8	5 0 0
4	13	9	1228	440	29212	3484	453	1 11½	19	9	4 6 8
5	1	..	34	..	679	40	1	1 2	2	..	....
6	16	2	929	252	17140	1232	166	1 4	29	11	3 4 8
7	13	2	632	160	16177	1973	394	1 6	..	8	..
8	113	16	7183	1678	163128	15906	3399	1 6	185	304	31 3 6
9	13	4	759	136	16199	1359	164	1 6	..	19	5 3 2 11
10	6	2	309	119	6042	387	30	1 4½	..	11	1 9 2
11	11	1	781	90	10423	321	126	0 6½	..	..	....
12	1	..	77	..	1696	182	9	2 4	..	3	0 6 8
13	31	7	1851	529	29755	2198	281	1 3	45	5	8 1 6
14	4	2	233	86	5274	322	54	1 0	..	5	1 12 11
15	22	4	1259	296	24494	2427	658	1 6	..	20	4 1 3
16	2	..	131	..	2411	196	8	1 8	..	..	0 10 0
17	20	3	1292	197	24531	1684	634	2 ..	29	20	5 4 0
18	37	40	3556	2138	86780	10697	1822	2 0	..	213	11 19 7
419	115	26191	8230	558637	52183	9833	..	187	878	184	92 8 10

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldgs., Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
								House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—NORTH METRO- POLITAN	30	127624	1344296	182082	282830	722849	719777	109171	599688	172503
" 2—SOUTH METRO- POLITAN	13	87343	918757	108545	99635	300988	865902	141212	458681	11543
" 3—KENT	21	49346	534939	100563	37325	233539	214070	34329	255478	21559
" 4—SUSSEX	9	17377	149033	33121	7247	55685	65557	42665	38032	8932
" 5—HANTS	17	45179	368280	67255	21968	175188	174742	32362	117310	12952
" 6—WILTS. AND DORSET	13	16436	138125	24909	11237	58357	50861	14141	67281	8122
" 7—OXFORD	16	46299	504476	48188	18988	160009	173814	98186	188482	23394
" 8—CAMBRIDGE	15	16160	129909	28458	10328	55037	64174	3256	55341	8902
" 9—NORFOLK	16	26755	212727	37421	18419	97055	76983	11768	112875	5431
" 10—ESSEX AND SUFFOLK	21	41878	430950	57731	40003	175143	171912	56482	174991	7408
" 11—BEDS. AND BUCKS...	18	20864	224759	44198	12403	71936	69770	52321	107170	5730
Totals, 1916	189	495261	4956251	732471	560383	2105786	2147562	595893	2175329	286476
Totals, 1915	198	453404	4443544	748641	427999	1837647	2116160	580942	1886299	468160
Increase .....	..	41857	512707	..	132334	268139	31402	14951	289030	..
Decrease	9	..	..	16170	..	..	..	..	..	181684

Summary showing Members, Capital,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	170	482085	4553273	627357	329166	1742433	1868501	567356	1960824	110045
Productive Societies	14	4935	35041	39798	9170	15763	43313	3970	7812	22476
Supply Associations	2	7906	366347	61285	221036	347219	236874	24567	205291	150181
Special Societies	3	335	1590	4031	1011	371	3874	..	1402	3774
Total for Section .	189	495261	4956251	732471	560383	2105786	2147562	595893	2175329	286476

SOUTHERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
									Educational Pur-poses.	Chari-table Pur-poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	4189	793	354279	86647	6260275	300142	47428	1216	2939	1688	605 0 3
2	2112	455	152081	49114	2322732	178909	85580	5094	3163	906	395 15 8
3	1341	363	83570	26611	1523538	143338	22326	645	1676	1296	237 10 6
4	462	62	27825	5534	415818	27510	6507	848	458	275	82 7 9
5	1081	262	62336	22573	1091123	83252	16262	2058	1730	606	191 16 2
6	354	77	19068	6858	432737	38271	5512	120	290	268	78 11 3
7	890	268	53013	21182	1049582	108432	21536	1390	1787	1576	197 12 9
8	361	178	19877	10540	362993	29165	5009	22	311	119	79 14 10
9	716	115	36876	7356	746974	76530	9470	1871	816	369	120 13 0
10	1131	298	62821	20111	1193499	108531	17235	200	1615	1146	200 15 4
11	419	115	26191	8230	558637	52183	9833	187	878	184	92 8 10
	19096	2986	897937	264756	15957908	1146263	196693	13651	15663	8433	2282 6 4
	12585	3011	805450	251355	13679234	1036443	204021	12786	14460	9199	2100 13 6
	511	..	92487	13401	2278674	109820	..	865	1203	..	181 12 10
	..	25	..	..	..	..	7323	..	..	766	..

Trade, &c., of various classes of Societies.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
11560	2509	717483	220332	12425005	1043459	195107	13050	15583	8129	2233 10 7
55	274	4366	23653	147094	11100	894	601	77	95	4 14 3
1454	203	175434	20771	3353428	91130	621	..	..	208	44 1 6
27	..	654	..	26381	574	76	..	3	1	..
13096	2986	897937	264756	15957908	1146263	196698	13651	15663	8433	2282 6 4

SOUTH-WESTERN**RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in
arranged in their**

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—CORNWALL—									
Retail Distrib. Societies —									
Bodmin	480	1977	270	163	1226	891	..	473	478
Camborne	1262	3520	2934	530	3219	3659	..	668	..
Darite	120	638	338	54	455	144	310	110	59
Delabole	629	3743	..	485	1836	800	280	2607	..
East Cornwall	100	778	85	347	523	193	..	303	112
Falmouth	267	264	..	96	411	115	..	114	169
Liskeard, St. Cleer & Dist.	1534	9718	887	515	4575	4061	519	3692	..
Lostwithiel	234	722	..	43	510	46	..	443	49
Menheniot	253	670	525	299	714	111	320	426	95
Pensilva	149	1346	150	13	656	644	..	164	158
Penzance	1152	3693	697	275	3833	178	..	2139	333
aRoche	172	340	..	100	493	57	..	176	48
St. Austell	1152	2662	793	253	2483	860	..	373	307
St. Blazey	380	1959	144	198	1272	751	..	856	..
St. Columb Road	761	3080	525	469	2792	1039	382	634	..
Saltash	1189	7416	388	1795	2486	2918	907	5504	93
Tokenbury Corner Coal ..	236	318	336	..	120	28	..	530	89
Truro	310	690	707	..	485	732	..	445	106
Wadebridge	460	1988	767	147	1454	1201	..	548	120
District Total	10840	45472	9546	5782	29543	18428	2718	20295	2216
No. 2—DEVON—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
aAshburton	232	533	363	189	584	520	..	213	134
Axminster	92	74	4	25	187	..	..	141	37
Bideford	460	792	593	61	777	791	..	451	213
Bovey Tracey	722	4057	702	528	2282	762	..	3202	141
Brixham	1078	10210	893	1137	5420	4647	580	3887	400
Buckfastleigh	945	16721	1702	1479	5655	5441	2735	7966	..
Budleigh Salterton	186	768	300	66	581	512	..	129	..
Colyton	114	318	100	..	273	385	..	138	121
Cornwood	231	730	467	384	970	646	..	344	124
Cullompton	181	1982	263	22	1182	497	287	397	30
Dartmouth	532	1542	562	222	1040	1080	253	471	..
Exeter	4312	28365	4649	453	10834	18964	2685	4417	544
Exmouth	980	7262	36	377	2306	1525	..	4254	..
Honiton	300	1587	579	106	610	1454	..	317	29
Ilfracombe	219	467	467	63	299	520	..	234	..
Kingswear	161	547	4	158	396	288	..	307	..
dLee Moor	146	601	24	171	577	168	..	378	..
Moreton Hampstead	340	1815	..	247	1688	327	..	400	82
Newton Abbot	2000	17396	2951	1709	8574	5768	1642	8717	598
North Tawton	119	308	253	67	322	84	..	382	..

SECTION.

the Counties of CORNWALL, DEVON, and SOMERSET, for 1916,
respective Counties.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to
the Registrar.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.		Net Profit.	Inter-est on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur poses.	Chari- table Pur poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	10	..	408	..	8727	547	88	1 6	..	2	4	2 4 0
2	25	2	723	25	25100	1961	110	1 8	6	..	6	3 18 10
3	3	..	154	..	2008	36	31	0 9	..	..	1	0 12 6
4	10	..	582	..	21659	1962	182	2 6	..	10	27	3 11 10
5	1	..	92	..	2893	187	32	1 9	..	..	..	....
6	6	3	172	33	5084	149	17	1 4	..	..	..	....
7	20	4	1300	255	29769	2434	441	1 6	..	9	17	7 8 9
8	5	..	194	..	4690	273	25	1 2½	..	..	2	1 1 4
9	4	..	202	..	4736	319	31	1 7	..	3	11	1 6 0
10	1	..	103	..	3301	226	63	1 7	..	..	..	0 14 7
11	25	4	889	282	25925	1247	149	1 0	..	17	9	4 2 10
12	3	..	151	..	1970	20	15	0 6½	..	..	1	0 17 5
13	12	..	757	..	20497	1054	112	1 7	..	8	24	5 1 6
14	7	..	326	..	7614	834	89	2 0	..	10	8	1 14 11
15	13	..	645	..	18957	1258	135	1 8	..	10	14	4 0 9
16	23	4	1130	379	29042	3654	276	2 3	70	64	5	5 16 3
17	1	..	64	..	1315	43	11	1 8	..	..	..	....
18	3	..	151	..	7317	97	15	1 0	..	..	4	1 9 11
19	8	..	361	..	7284	439	88	1 6	..	..	7	2 5 10
	180	17	8489	974	227888	16740	1910	..	76	133	140	46 7 3
1	4	2	294	..	3151	63	24	1 0	..	1	1	0 4
2	2	..	89	..	1895	52	2	1 0	..	..	1	0 8 4
3	7	3	303	170	7874	603	26	1 6	..	..	2	2 3 0
4	20	4	963	341	19725	1919	199	1 9½	..	16	10	3 12 6
5	36	5	1201	220	32067	3622	459	2 0	..	18	68	5 12 1
6	22	15	1338	621	38061	4096	744	1 8	27	88	22	4 9 5
7	4	..	107	..	2688	219	29	1 2½	4	..	1	0 13 0
8	2	1	126	39	2741	78	6	0 10	..	..	1	0 10 1
9	6	1	292	106	7319	489	34	1 6	9	..	1	1 1 2
10	3	2	112	68	2795	221	87	1 0½	..	..	2	0 19 2
11	10	2	365	152	8068	548	68	1 2	..	11	..	2 8 2
12	70	17	3924	1163	62831	5487	1190	1 4	61	93	62	19 5 8
13	8	4	392	285	13663	1387	314	1 6	16	26	14	4 17 7
14	3	2	237	91	5160	363	84	0 9	..	..	1	1 8 5
15	3	..	132	..	2113	64	16	3 0	..	..	1	1 2 0
16	2	..	93	..	3172	359	24	1 6	3	5	2	0 14 1
17	4	2	306	130	5370	438	25	1 6	..	..	11	0 15 10
18	6	2	295	102	7139	448	62	1 5	..	6	..	....
19	45	9	2171	559	46565	4869	804	1 9	..	15	22	9 14 2
20	1	..	45	..	2633	157	14	1 4	4	2	1	0 10 6

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
DEVON— <i>Con.</i>									
Okehampton.....	478	1483		158	1005	126		604	160
Paignton.....	2128	15697	2763	2038	11618	7592	238	4107	513
† Plymouth Mutual.....	50812	629822	59878	120678	289269	369981	113347	126872	871
Plympton.....	855	3078	3903	199	3439	3426	1933	636	373
Sidmouth.....	600	4634	467	425	1850	1960	..	2057	24
South Molton.....	580	2145	285	164	889	320	..	1596	..
Tavistock.....	501	2438	373	300	1322	1334	117	772	27
Teignmouth.....	837	5888	752	480	2898	2543	..	3124	35
† Tiverton.....	938	6496	1788	..	3188	4170	..	1185	162
Torquay.....	3332	43133	8544	2452	15116	19368	6914	16675	613
Torrington.....	348	925	..	372	956	..	..	599	5
Retail Societies Total	74849	811814	93665	134730	376107	455208	130731	194981	5180
Productive Society:— Plymouth Printers.....	214	1361	1001	112	484	2681	..	35	629
District Total	75063	813175	94666	134842	376591	457889	130731	195016	5809
No. 3.—SOMERSET— Retail Distrib. Societies —									
* Bath.....	1084	5297	2894	..	1439	5463	..	1382	396
Bridgwater.....	2438	15780	6121	1436	5631	5942	5269	9352	1044
Bristol.....	19695	165132	23655	15757	61709	78776	307	81088	10445
Bruton.....	572	2827	1406	294	2709	1056	201	632	453
Butleigh.....	226	1845	50	89	1501	..	..	621	116
Chard.....	2316	28565	38	1629	10829	6210	9030	8574	818
Chewton Mendip.....	107	170	453	47	612	80	..	98	11
Coleford (Highbury).....	775	5794	1307	321	2819	2642	..	2620	200
† Crewkerne.....	735	6096	140	300	3262	2537	..	762	457
East Harptree.....	139	840	..	303	1242	16	..	234	37
Frome.....	1231	10309	2538	266	3654	5728	..	5450	260
Minehead.....	251	636	20	..	537	40	..	273	85
Oakhill.....	215	1312	129	249	1085	375	..	371	98
Portishead.....	715	4321	1758	294	2669	2603	1038	911	569
Radstock.....	5939	57630	17692	2135	25972	23586	10970	23027	15
Shepton Mallet.....	824	4398	1381	815	4541	2146	236	1292	1227
Stoke-under-Ham.....	322	1510	466	170	1105	409	..	877	85
† Street Industrial.....	602	3870	993	322	1192	1641	268	2313	576
Taunton.....	2566	29438	465	1492	7651	6073	14058	7113	11
Templecombe.....	303	1508	401	206	1088	740	..	485	135
Twerton-on-Avon.....	4473	26099	7297	2549	11222	14793	4991	5694	449
Wellington.....	1389	23704	462	529	8653	1626	11238	5065	476
Wells.....	301	808	8	..	560	140	..	309	128
Weston-super-Mare.....	889	6540	2210	360	2761	2466	1608	3017	170
Yeovil.....	2612	15240	3983	1853	8128	6742	1849	8777	249
Retail Societies Total	50809	419669	75867	31416	172571	171830	61063	170427	18484
Productive Society:— Bristol Printers.....	66	601	260	123	212	464	..	181	203
District Total	50875	420270	76127	31539	172783	172294	61063	170608	18687

* 1913 Figures. † Nine months' trading. ‡ 1914 Figures

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
21	6	2	421	95	10086	642	62	1 6	..	27	..	2 7 11
22	58	9	3068	602	56970	5208	695	1 9	..	67	28	9 14 2
23	1699	461	66291	26341	999290	134631	23519	2 2½	1400	1997	498	309 5 0
24	22	3	905	173	19458	1320	130	1 6	..	4	14	3 2 6
25	7	2	535	172	10814	1043	217	1 5½	15	15	7	3 4 7
26	6	3	238	170	7024	686	84	1 6	3	14	6	2 16 4
27	9	2	438	181	11495	1054	101	1 8½	..	7	7	2 15 8
28	16	3	975	166	16352	1251	275	1 3	18	10	5	4 0 7
29	14	3	592	175	9597	804	304	1 3	..	..	..	4 17 6
30	91	26	5023	1556	84934	8027	1949	1 4	..	115	175	15 14 0
31	9	2	361	96	7029	856	40	2 0	..	23	2	1 8 8
	2195	587	91632	33774	1508079	181004	31587	..	1560	2553	965	419 12 1
32	..	15	..	1394	4532	138	63	0 1	33	6	5	1 5 0
	2195	602	91632	35168	1512611	181142	31650	..	1593	2559	970	420 17 1
1	19	3	897	242	9095	993	247	0 11½	13	6	..	7 13 0
2	48	10	2510	503	52231	4951	653	1 6	43	95	30	10 6 8
3	476	91	30572	10070	424313	39391	7157	1 4	..	666	360	96 5 4
4	11	3	611	168	12040	875	121	1 6	..	..	9	4 12 10
5	4	3	147	147	5674	340	91	1 6	..	..	1	..
6	38	7	2055	365	48555	5891	1330	2 0	..	..	26	11 8 3
7	3	..	131	..	2900	194	5	1 6	..	..	..	..
8	14	9	875	496	25979	2924	258	2 0½	..	..	10	3 13 1
9	17	7	698	367	19406	1314	295	1 5	..	..	1	..
10	2	..	135	..	4049	393	38	2 0	..	..	..	..
11	25	5	1121	607	25217	1516	474	1 1	..	5	17	5 19 9
12	3	..	164	..	2776	186	26	1 0	..	..	1	1 5 10
13	5	2	229	147	5260	370	53	1 4	..	..	2	1 2 6
14	14	5	827	379	19165	1141	193	1 0	..	..	4	3 6 8
15	157	37	9222	2382	190075	23803	2247	2 4	..	..	54	28 12 2
16	18	5	942	307	18630	1284	178	1 7	..	..	5	..
17	4	3	242	147	8284	520	60	1 3	..	..	6	1 11 3
18	8	4	455	166	10333	1254	185	2 0	6	..	..	..
19	57	11	2462	661	51619	6198	1365	2 0	66	60	10	12 8 1
20	3	2	261	115	7752	494	70	1 4	9	..	3	1 8 5
21	97	20	5464	1353	90061	9379	1011	1 9½	..	191	29	19 19 9
22	23	8	1391	481	31601	3138	1061	1 4	..	46	7	6 18 6
23	4	2	265	108	4277	e154	19	..	..	..	..	..
24	19	2	835	263	14341	1146	270	1 0	15	8	18	4 10 0
25	42	10	2844	660	54733	4347	664	1 0	..	83	23	12 4 4
	1111	249	65355	20134	1147366	112024	18071	..	152	1160	616	233 6 5
26	..	7	..	582	1456	108	27	..	27	4	..	0 7 6
	1111	256	65355	20716	1148822	112150	18098	..	179	1164	616	233 13 11

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Re-serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop-erty.	All other Invest-ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—CORNWALL	19	10840	45472	9546	5782	29543	18428	2718	20295	2216
„ 2—DEVON	32	75063	813175	94666	134842	376591	457889	130731	195016	5809
„ 3—SOMERSET	26	50875	420270	76127	31539	172783	172294	61063	170608	18687
Totals, 1916	77	136778	1278917	180339	172163	578917	648611	194512	385919	26712
Totals, 1915	77	125618	1203175	130474	166838	415271	559632	187483	482896	21243
Increase .....	..	11160	70742	49865	5325	163646	88979	7029	..	5469
Decrease .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96917	..

Summary showing Members, Capital,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	75	136498	1276955	179078	171928	573221	645466	194512	385703	25880
Productive Societies	2	280	1962	1261	235	696	3145	..	216	832
Total for Section ..	77	136778	1278917	180339	172163	578917	648611	194512	385919	26712

SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
	Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	180	17	8489	974	227888	16740	1910	76	133	140	46 7 3
2	2195	602	91632	35168	1512611	181142	31650	1593	2559	970	420 17 1
3	1111	256	65355	20716	1148822	112150	18098	179	1164	616	293 13 11
	3486	875	165476	56858	2889321	310032	51658	1848	3856	1726	700 18 3
	3080	794	156035	48454	2821751	350152	53246	4460	5435	4022	566 0 2
	406	141	9441	8404	67570	..	..	..	..	..	184 18 1
	..	..	..	..	..	40120	1588	2612	1579	2296	..

Trade, &c., of various classes of Societies.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
3486	853	165476	54882	2883333	309786	51568	1788	3846	1721	699 5 9
..	22	..	1976	5988	246	90	60	10	5	1 12 6
3486	875	165476	56858	2889321	310032	51658	1848	3856	1726	700 18 3

WESTERN

**RETURN OF TRADE, &c., of Co-operative Societies in the Counties
HEREFORD, MONMOUTH, MONTGOMERY, PEMBROKE, and Part of**

a These particulars are taken from our last year's return. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
No. 1—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>a</i> Bream	113	241	445	..	300	573	..	139	90
Cainscross and Ebley	4804	58161	4660	3145	16982	12456	9907	32081	2437
Cinderford	2864	37964	1201	4738	13133	7901	1438	25796	836
<i>a</i> Coln Independent	185	985	..	392	798	120	..	403	354
<i>d</i> Dumbleton	105	430	105	72	352	63	..	259	25
Frampton Cotterell	735	8490	2863	600	5400	4860	..	2396	453
Gloucester	14255	233615	6454	13890	64679	53307	47736	110433	231
Hereford	1744	14373	1782	1277	6206	6626	780	7129	850
<i>a</i> Kemble	460	2072	18	258	815	481	..	1029	221
Llanidloes	451	2564	489	299	1020	1556	..	498	137
Lydney	344	4463	774	541	1228	2124	526	2043	104
Pillowell and Yorkley	410	4507	..	277	1772	800	..	2773	102
South Cerney	134	223	..	142	252	19	..	350	55
Stroud	4003	46839	1412	2794	17035	10615	4345	22595	2808
* Tortworth	48	180	..	30	261	..	..	111	15
<i>a</i> Upper Lydbrook	79	417	448	21	361	615	..	200	69
District Total†	30734	415524	20651	28476	130594	102116	64732	208155	8772
No. 2—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN DISTRICT— Retail Distrib. Societies—									
Aberdare Workmen's	3452	37591	3001	3805	25935	12250	8247	4528	7700
Abergavenny	304	705	54	140	320	201	..	522	..
Abersychan and Talywain	3668	34591	6339	4428	19785	15251	10775	12221	51
Blaenavon	2716	55277	8711	3190	17008	12725	2321	18091	884
Blaina	8749	176609	37170	9019	79790	35724	37677	83214	1694
Brecon	340	1273	..	177	776	268	..	950	13
Cardiff	3068	9055	13039	397	7244	12736	4034	2991	2602
Chepstow	840	4519	1558	351	3450	2832	..	1011	998
Cwmbach	7630	119197	16731	11479	97545	25203	15955	27322	4462
Cwmbran & Pontnewydd	404	4334	302	126	2784	2152	..	774	25
Cwmteullic	1591	21261	3314	1738	12175	5234	768	12474	..
Dowlais	2725	19874	1726	3229	10802	7666	1077	7796	702
* Duffryn (Mountain Ash) ..	634	9337	2213	300	9302	..	..	2548	..
Ebbw Vale	3698	36765	8613	1344	22919	15459	6895	9446	80
* Garndiffaith and Varteg ..	566	9883	3089	1170	5151	3174	..	6417	..
Merthyr and Troedyrhiw ..	1617	15153	1926	1121	11780	8026	893	2803	998
Newport	4780	69919	7150	2551	24212	14200	25191	19325	3538
New Tredegar	2460	22425	6907	1945	17053	9565	3527	2095	3763

* 1918 Figures.

† The Newtown and Welshpool Societies were formerly in this district, but have been transferred to District 10, Midland Section.

SECTION.

of BRECKNOCK, CARDIGAN, CARMARTHEN, GLAMORGAN, GLOUCESTER, WORCESTER, for 1916, arranged in their respective Counties.

from the Registrar's Return for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.		Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
									Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Co-operative Union.	
		£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	
1	3	1	186	71	3579	183	11 1 0	..	..	1	0 11 7
2	53	26	5837	1939	158521	20087	2132 2 4½	..	..	69	23 9 8
3	93	18	5155	1475	128055	11094	1854 1 5½	..	..	45	14 10 9
4	5	1	178	67	3983	367	9 1 9	..	..	..	....
5	2	..	123	..	2130	160	18 1 6	..	..	2	....
6	23	2	1432	166	28642	1657	324 1 2	..	..	21	3 9 10
7	441	65	23785	5172	408731	50411	8183 2 0½	..	394	369	63 9 3	
8	42	8	2336	955	44637	4152	616 1 9	..	3	11	8 4 9	
9	7	2	488	178	12157	732	77 1 0	..	9	2	2 7 11	
10	5	2	306	160	7011	797	116 ..	..	..	8	2 1 8
11	7	2	415	125	9191	1028	186 1 10	..	16	..	1 13 5	
12	7	4	510	297	19092	1637	187 2 0	..	..	4	1 11 6
13	2	1	85	59	2676	105	9 0 9	..	..	..	0 12 8
14	96	16	5072	1276	133219	17181	1857 2 4½	..	90	15	20 12 0	
15	..	..	53	..	1232	60	9 ..	..	..	..	....
16	2	1	129	79	2909	126	17 1 0	..	..	..	0 8 3
788		149	46090	12019	965765	109777	15605 ..	..	512	547	143 3 3
1	96	15	5626	1169	173604	28099	1071 3 0	..	40	60	17 13 1	
2	3	1	294	100	5252	385	27 1 3	..	10	2	1 7 0	
3	109	19	7510	1850	169444	18384	1372 2 0	..	213	23	17 4 0	
4	88	20	6394	1800	131397	15157	2032 2 0	..	128	60	13 0 8	
5	260	45	19012	4375	460442	54277	5705 2 0	1110	300	178	40 11 0	
6	6	1	331	91	6100	435	49 1 6	..	8	7	1 11 3	
7	60	10	3801	1154	48930	1654	374 0 9	..	21	29	14 16 0	
8	17	3	786	260	24482	1835	190 1 5	12	12	10	3 18 2	
9	256	32	17244	2610	460235	73323	5784 2 11½	..	81	120	36 13 8	
10	12	2	653	278	19816	1785	196 1 7½	..	..	5	1 19 4
11	59	10	3415	905	82173	9855	774 2 2½	97	104	17	7 15 2	
12	74	13	4409	959	120511	9539	913 1 4	..	40	41	10 4 9	
13	..	..	..	..	28091	4073	..	..	..	..	....
14	115	11	7054	1364	139370	16796	1413 2 3½	..	43	121	12 9 11	
15	..	..	..	..	30560	4044	..	..	..	..	2 19 0
16	56	10	3394	624	84090	9300	463 2 0	..	20	6	5 12 5	
17	125	24	7536	2391	138998	12234	2600 1 5	..	60	62	23 1 6	
18	96	18	5672	1636	131625	13775	575 ..	59	50	62	10 1 0	

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over-draft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Property.	All other Investments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—Con.		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Penarth	1387	5971	2988	1242	5891	2025	2134	2080	696
cPenrhiwceiber									
Senghenydd & Aber Valley	1785	12661	..	2269	11962	7794	..	1520	..
Trecynon and Cwmdare ..	925	11618	561	847	4667	3026	1387	4833	1770
Tredegare	2844	18694	11008	1345	20003	8482	4027	3490	761
Treharris	1440	13526	4755	1089	7663	9323	1008	2408	655
Ynysybwl	3345	29187	7103	2927	14680	6694	4433	15919	2050
Retail Societies Total†	60968	730455	148858	56229	432807	220010	151336	244808	34442
Supply Association :—									
aWest Breconshire Farmers	305	2240	3372	157	2763	750	..	1323	4329
District Total	61273	741695	152230	56386	435660	220760	151336	246131	28771
No. 8—WEST WALES DIST.—									
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
aAbercrave	229	728	600	250	753	654	..	177	400
Alltwn and Pontardawe ..	1806	12586	7154	923	8410	4511	3049	2176	5618
aAmmanford	1170	8930	481	1356	5869	1940	175	1761	376
Blaendulais	163	758	204	51	1586	281	..	154	325
aBriton Ferry	838	6001	3477	711	4304	2978	3274	1285	611
aBurry Port	372	1763	2356	295	1974	1481	742	462	188
Carmanthen	311	714	872	141	482	1048	..	379	8
aCraigcfeinparc	128	413	48	337	454	..	..	320	199
Cwmbwrla	601	2689	4429	363	3009	1612	2744	844	878
Cwmgorse	377	2608	2594	553	3312	1107	997	1080	..
Cwmilynfell	231	2270	156	222	1816	884	..	482	591
Gorslas	295	2821	150	565	2914	743	..	1298	42
Llanelli	1470	8887	1810	2035	5563	3922	1650	3898	381
Llangennech	105	518	..	92	350	..	..	361	103
Lower Cwmtwrch	193	1228	708	145	1447	550	..	842	..
Neath Abbey and Skewen..	540	4260	1321	2105	4372	2969	644	863	1633
Pembroke Dock	1676	6583	987	780	6586	2970	..	969	320
Pontardulais	1365	13564	2456	1467	12096	4580	2500	2067	950
Pontyberem	333	3726	..	118	3989	1113	..	931	380
Porthcawl	211	520	..	124	464	88	..	261	..
Resolven	836	11504	1285	1048	6809	4655	1298	4826	1319
Swansea	3734	20282	15000	883	18470	11764	7048	4338	1740
Trimsaran	153	717	250	447	1529	236	..	194	314
Whitland	126	231	3	51	272	..	..	86	24
Retail Societies Total	17263	114561	46941	15062	96830	50086	24121	30054	16400
Productive Societies :—									
dCymmer, Corrwg & Gwynfi									
Baking	9	400	681	210	154	869	..	185	79
Swansea Printers	81	865	1323	206	326	1685	..	74	477
Produc. Societies Total	90	1265	2004	416	480	2554	..	259	653
District Total	17353	115826	48945	15478	97310	52640	24121	30313	17053

* 1913 Figures. † The Aberystwyth Society was formerly in this district, but has been transferred to District 10, Midland Section. ‡ 1914 Figures.

	No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.		Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.						
	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.	Distri- butive.	Pro- ductive.		Net Profit.	In- terest on Share Capital	Aver- age Divi- dend per £.	Bonns on Wages.	Subscriptions.		
										Educa- tional Pur- poses.	Charl- table Pur- poses.	Co-operative Union.
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
19	39	4	2379	436	42542	3606	264	1 6 1/2	..	64	..	6 10 5
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21	37	11	2984	1083	83745	11939	312	2 8	..	70	40	7 9 0
22	21	4	1438	385	42383	7072	290	3 2	..	26	14	3 0 5
23	52	10	3893	1061	103579	10264	527	1 9	..	74	24	11 10 0
24	40	13	3079	778	64003	6557	469	2 0	..	21	32	6 14 9
25	80	22	5357	1530	155083	18260	970	2 2	..	130	37	13 2 6
	1701	298	112261	26839	2746464	332648	26379	..	1278	1520	950	269 5 0
26	4	..	211	..	17386	..	65	..	..	..	4	1 12 6
	1705	298	112472	26839	2763850	332648	26444	..	1278	1520	954	270 17 6
1	3	1	273	96	4720	150	24	1 0	..	..	7	8 6 8
2	32	22	2537	536	58259	5976	367	2 0	..	25	12	6 15 5
3	17	3	1806	154	41109	4925	374	2 0	..	26	..	0 14 7
4	8	..	320	..	7207	345	25	1 0	..	5	..	4 7 3
5	23	4	1239	209	23037	1936	282	1 4	..	15	10	2 5 6
6	8	1	484	84	10833	850	75	1 3	22	22	9	1 7 0
7	5	..	271	..	6229	443	17	1 0	..	12	..	0 14 3
8	3	..	137	..	2890	194	19	0 9	..	1	..	3 1 5
9	12	3	748	210	13515	662	136	1 0	..	5	8	1 5 0
10	8	..	693	..	17412	1985	42	2 0	..	12	4	7 17 4
11	7	2	509	162	10603	899	93	1 8	..	10	16	1 0 10
12	8	6	482	334	15704	1819	131	2 0	..	10	22	6 11 4
13	27	4	1891	297	44007	3874	321	1 0	..	62	32	0 8 4
14	2	..	155	..	5173	355	6	1 6	..	..	..	0 18 2
15	5	..	305	..	6958	358	43	1 0	..	3	25	2 13 1
16	16	2	1242	130	27793	1925	155	1 6	..	8	71	7 17 4
17	36	3	1700	291	40351	2527	279	1 3	..	7	18	4 16 4
18	31	10	2283	496	65358	7444	520	2 0	..	11	21	1 4 1
19	9	2	613	154	19132	1996	87	2 0	..	..	2	0 14 6
20	3	..	217	..	4980	418	17	1 5 1/2	..	6	2	3 5 7
21	25	4	1982	311	46904	5404	495	2 0	..	27	10	14 6 5
22	68	20	3637	1826	95951	5373	705	1 0	150	128	48	0 13 8
23	4	1	276	66	8622	487	5	1 4	..	12	2	0 9 9
24	2	..	130	..	2593	153	8	0 9 1/2	..	4	1	
	362	88	23930	5356	579340	50498	4226	..	172	411	320	75 0 8
25	..	7	..	619	4438	129	22	..	..	..	..	..
26	..	12	..	879	2471	109	33	..	..	..	..	0 10 6
27	..	19	..	1498	6909	238	55	..	..	..	..	0 10 6
	362	107	23930	6854	586249	50736	4281	..	172	411	320	75 11 2

NAME OF SOCIETY.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
		Share Capital.	Loans, Includ- ing any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	
No. 4—MID-GLAMORGAN DISTRICT—									
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Retail Distrib. Societies—									
dAbergwyntf	278	2668	41	714	2682	915	..	950	592
Afan Valley	380	3885	1437	596	4908	387	873	1034	68
Barry and District	1481	9486	3875	1087	8317	4210	1863	1152	605
Blaengarw	411	3123	2018	335	3595	2377	103	323	910
Bryn.....	125	794	244	205	686	..	164	382	321
Caerau and Maesteg	1073	3406	8368	197	5116	7238	656	1171	1496
Cwmavon	10	33	..	..	..	..	..	40	..
Cymmer	502	9484	1834	654	5272	4033	199	2727	858
aFerndale	3113	26806	..	23281	16272	14521	3643	18298	7171
aGlynccorrwg	315	4033	538	431	2682	1126	..	1542	410
*Margam	76	240	..	45	348	..	..	100	..
Mid-Rhondda	3150	12408	5805	4287	16192	8144	3060	2797	445
Nantymoel	2103	29643	804	3122	15415	6051	1098	17556	6175
Pantdu	267	2772	319	1035	2561	347	319	1805	92
Penygraig	3506	20825	3872	1882	16304	8608	2071	8851	4322
aPontrhydyfen	184	1997	125	204	1142	695	126	617	342
Pontycymmer	1697	17071	3137	2292	11688	4815	2708	3668	5828
aPontyrhyl	105	1041	..	196	590	280	..	338	333
Taibach and Port Talbot ..	1392	11150	2162	946	6660	6070	895	3833	103
Ton	3358	45989	8817	1182	20640	16521	2634	23715	617
Treorky	1650	13905	196	5437	13257	5432	..	3575	7211
District Total	25176	220759	43592	48128	154327	91770	20412	94503	37900

* 1913 Figures. d 1914 Figures.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.							
						Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital	Average Dividend per £.	Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
Distributive.	Productive.	Distributive.	Productive.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.					Co-operative Unions.			
			£	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1	8	1	828	74	17508	2148	85	2 6	..	3	13	2	1 8
2	11	1	708	115	27927	3601	127	2 6	..	..	1	1	16 8
3	46	8	2576	667	50694	3608	433	1 3	..	3	65	7	4 2
4	6	3	693	287	18758	1715	108	1 10 1	..	..	4	1	11 3
5	4	..	263	..	7699	774	12	2 0	..	..	..	0	10 5
6	34	2	1850	214	32002	2078	87	1 6	..	24	3	4	2 7
7	..	..	..	..	..	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	20	..	1474	..	39974	4775	370	2 2 1	..	54	26	2	7 9
9	101	15	9826	1382	229440	37734	228	3 6	..	60	50	..	..
10	5	..	608	..	19749	2825	103	2 10	..	..	..	1	7 1
11	..	..	110	..	2813	265	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	82	8	5814	668	141385	15145	291	2 0	..	8	77	13	0 5
13	72	17	5575	1364	136576	18015	840	2 6	..	40	64	9	12 8
14	7	..	529	..	20215	3346	121	3 0	..	..	1	1	6 0
15	87	16	6897	1922	203090	23803	407	2 5	..	18	41	14	0 6
16	6	3	375	155	9265	949	96	2 0	..	7	..	1	5 10
17	34	8	3655	909	95918	11221	680	2 3 1	..	20	69	7	17 8
18	2	..	232	..	5104	496	38	1 11 1	..	3	2	0	10 6
19	46	6	2326	514	72554	9629	431	2 6	..	60	28	5	4 4
20	89	13	5464	1224	150280	14225	1516	1 11	..	163	34	13	10 10
21	38	7	2680	662	72503	7144	295	1 8	..	..	..	7	0 7
698			108	52483	10157	1353454	163501	6294	..	..	463	478	94 10 11

SUMMARY OF THE

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.				
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Over- draft from Bank.	Re- serve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments. House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.	Owing to the Society for Goods.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
No. 1—GLOUCESTER AND HEREFORD	16	30734	415524	20651	28476	130594	102116	64732	208185	8772
„ 2—BRECON, MONMOUTH, AND EAST GLAMOR- GAN	26	61273	741695	152230	56386	435660	220760	151396	246131	38771
„ 3—WEST WALES	26	17353	115826	48945	15478	97310	52640	24121	30313	17053
„ 4—MID-GLAMORGAN ..	21	25176	220759	43592	48128	154327	91770	20412	94503	37900
Totals, 1916	89	134536	1493804	265418	148468	817891	467286	260601	579132	102496
Totals, 1915	94	117858	1299873	233826	138056	635831	451417	279760	480161	89939
Increase .....	..	16678	193931	31592	10412	182060	15869	..	98971	12557
Decrease	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	19159	..	..

Summary showing Members, Capital,

			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Retail Distrib. Societies ..	86	134141	1490299	260042	147895	814648	463982	260601	577550
Productive Societies	2	90	1265	2004	416	480	2554	..	259
Supply Associations	1	305	2240	3372	157	2763	750	..	1323
Total for Section ..	89	134536	1493804	265418	148468	817891	467286	260601	579132

WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.			Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the Year.	PROFIT.					
Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Distributive.	Pro-ductive.	Net Profit.		Interest on Share Capital.	Am't Paid as Bonus on Wages.	Subscriptions.			
								Educational Pur-poses.	Charitable Pur-poses.	Co-operative Union.	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	788	149	46090	12019	965765	109777	15605	..	512	547	143 3 8
2	1705	298	112472	26839	2763850	332648	26444	1278	1520	954	270 17 6
3	362	107	23930	6854	586249	50736	4281	172	411	320	75 11 2
4	698	108	52483	10157	1358454	163501	6294	..	463	478	94 10 11
	3553	662	234975	55869	5669318	656662	52624	1450	2906	2299	584 2 10
	3241	644	202147	47203	4524354	557787	44531	1054	2656	1826	526 0 6
	312	18	82828	8666	1144964	98875	8093	396	250	473	58 2 4

Trade, &c., of various classes of Societies.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
3549	643	234764	54371	5645023	656424	52504	1450	2906	2295	581	19 10
..	19	..	1498	6909	238	55	..	..	..	0	10 6
4	..	211	..	17386	..	65	..	..	4	1	12 6
3553	662	234975	55869	5669318	656662	52624	1450	2906	2299	584	2 10

A SUMMARY FOR ALL THE SECTIONS.

NAME OF SECTION.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.						
			Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.			Owing to the Society for Goods.		
								House Property.	All other Investments.				
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Ireland (excluding Agricultural, Dairy, Specials, &c.)	41	26710	232225	89385	30601	153115	116188	8908	76987	103680			
Midland	213	483001	6080229	960094	483096	2290408	2949487	1242027	2527931	208133			
Northern	139	404281	6405403	753246	319058	1553158	1780647	1159019	3355801	294507			
North-Western	456	1357906	23176266	6391477	4234451	10702032	8730228	5058222	12609117	2810958			
Scottish	277	527768	8012143	6392140	1927511	4548874	3441443	898912	8780388	1134383			
Southern	189	495261	4956251	732471	560383	2105786	2147562	595893	2175329	256476			
South-Western	77	136778	1278017	180339	172163	578917	648611	194512	385919	26712			
Western	89	134536	1493804	265418	148468	87891	467286	260601	579132	102496			
Totals for 1916	1481	3566941	51636238	15713570	7870331	220651081	19681452	9418094	30520604	4967345			
Totals for 1915	1497	3310524	47202875	15027555	7189143	18536262	19853230	8742411	28630719	4040485			
Increase .....	..	255717	4492863	686015	631188	4514819	..	675683	1889885	926910			
Decrease	16	..	..	..	..	..	171787	..	..	..

DETAILED SUMMARY SHOWING SOCIETIES OF VARIOUS TYPES.—Continued.

No. of Employees on December 31st.				Salaries and Wages.		Sales during the year.	Net Profit.	Interest on Share Capital.	Amount Paid as Bonus on Wages.	PROFIT.		
										Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.	Subscriptions.
				Distributive.	Productive.							
	Distributive.		Productive.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1	88522	27129		5474044	1978572	121088550	16335079	1904627	53707	120374	93521	16420 10 8
2	16	11		1183	1006	122502	9632	1254	..	..	7	1 0 0
3	766	9518		78738	653368	4461491	†333842	40198	97902	3333	4191	208 12 1
4	1458	203		176095	20771	3402308	92328	778	..	..	212	45 14 0
5	470	..		34552	..	408110	27311	1115	..	3	1	25 10 0
6	3542	..		389673	..	52230074	1419914	121324	..	147	6231	600 0 0
7	..	18673		..	1430054	*16367509	374780	†114027	..	..	..	..
8	1440	..		130062	..	14502410	448321	25932	10870	..	19520	132 0 0
9	..	6867		..	463103	*4708104	103795	†23677	..	..	..	..
10	100	..		6854	..	479877	4989	800	..	500	..	3 0 0
	96314	62401		6291201	4546874	197235322	13150021	2096028	102479	124357	116983	17436 6 9

* Also included in distributive sales.

† Also included in general interest charges. The productive profits are the amounts before deducting this interest.

‡ Total profits of societies showing a profit. Some societies showed a loss, the total being £1,801.

RETURNS RELATING TO

a These particulars are taken from our last year's returns. *b* These particulars are taken this office or to

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
(A) Cotton, Linen, Silk, & Wool.	Corsets	Kettering Corset Manufacturing	1
	Cotton Cloth	Burnley Self-Help Manufacturing	2
	Fustian	Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing	3
	Hosiery	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers	4
	"	Wigston Hosiery	5
	Ready-made Clothing	Kettering Clothing	6
	"	Ideal Clothiers (Wellingborough)	7
	"	London Clothiers	8
	Quilts, Table Covers, &c.	Eccles Manufacturing	9
	Silk Twist	Leek Silk Twist Manufacturing	10
	"	Macclesfield Silk	11
	Worsted and Wool	Thomson, Wm., and Sons Limited (Huddersfield)	12
	"	Airedale Worsted Manufacturing (Bradford)	13
	"	Delph Woollen Manufacturing	14
Total			
(B) Leather Workers.	Boots and Shoes	<i>b</i> Avalon (Rothwell) Boot and Shoe	15
	"	Chesham Boot and Shoe	16
	"	Crompton (Desborough) Boot and Shoe	17
	"	Excelsior (Sileby) Boot and Shoe	18
	"	Finedon Boot and Shoe	19
	"	<i>a</i> Glenfield Boot and Shoe	20
	"	Higham Ferrers Boot and Shoe	21
	"	Kettering Boot and Shoe	22
	"	Kettering Union Boot and Shoe	23
	"	Leicester Anchor Boot and Shoe	24
	"	Leicester Equity Boot and Shoe	25
	"	Leicester Self-Help Boot and Shoe	26
	"	Midland (Wellingborough) Boot and Shoe	27
	"	Nantwich Boot and Shoe	28
	"	Northamptonshire Productive (Wollaston)	29
	"	Pioneer Co-operative Boot	30
	"	Ringstead Unity	31
"	St. Crispin Productive (Raunds)	32	
"	"Sperope" Boot and Shoe (Barwell)	33	
Total			

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES 1916.

from the Registrar's Returns for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machin- ery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
1	387	13321	...	2338	14811	3100	300	550	2901	230	11851
2	313	8759	18044	...	12170	11548	56	312	5133	92	7133
3	903	34404	1277	18208	10137	20908	..	18888	10274	285	20026
4	314	7449	10541	1944	17310	4581	..	1452	5975	116	6305
5	410	11426	2455	2224	10693	5936	..	2703	3740	70	4657
6	1415	24915	25815	19898	63157	17700	299	5393	12554	957	49480
7	1224	23659	9700	26761	40919	23122	..	11876	14209	831	42061
8	90	1336	201	620	1762	118	..	379	781	26	2590
9	228	13974	7363	3222	11759	11684	..	1083	2607	90	5553
10	119	8809	8571	2489	9782	4074	..	4603	10751	110	8148
11	266	8668	10974	..	8800	4397	..	1463	6362	108	7511
12	422	14867	20247	4861	25525	661	..	3063	15214	123	10520
13	367	7351	2881	1990	8594	334	..	5017	2771	44	3993
14	83	2291	595	51	1193	1728	90	248	642	13	839
	6541	181229	118664	84606	236612	109891	745	57030	93914	3095	180667
15	222	11947	485	2840	7340	4440	..	7218	..	..	20602
16	100	2067	1342	1086	2600	1514	..	799	1346	60	5450
17	273	4589	2877	6335	6086	3093	275	3252	1633	99	6669
18	110	2908	3584	2558	9950	2005	..	544	3458	99	7513
19	28	4993	753	4600	6294	60	..	2695	3990	98	6733
20	249	3273	3740	1341	2608	1788	..	2410	1958	83	5378
21	270	6321	3472	3815	8327	3007	..	768	3443	90	7306
22	651	10046	13561	7116	24251	3294	..	1654	6609	202	17152
23	276	2705	3683	814	5245	1120	..	765	2808	64	4635
24	558	5582	7511	2518	15390	6115	..	842	3847	159	12999
25	988	12887	12791	8225	17116	7871	..	5885	5339	237	18343
26	171	2449	2195	1962	6032	2768	..	97	2024	63	5568
27	236	6123	2470	3352	12629	1312	..	3085	6250	128	10623
28	112	793	617	339	969	1066	..	7	492	28	1094
29	199	9125	5288	4179	8461	1750	..	2597	3870	78	8019
30	73	808	500	1000	2092	1057	..	62	..	20	1451
31	26	3515	..	2033	6036	543	..	1894	1347	80	5735
32	60	6338	5909	7992	9849	1050	..	12474	5322	140	11550
33	234	3487	7631	1892	8827	3085	..	204	3417	82	6048
	4836	92856	78409	63997	160102	46938	275	47252	57153	1815	162688

RETURNS RELATING TO

a These particulars are taken from our last year's returns. *b* These particulars are taken
this office or to

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES.		
(a) Cotton, Linen, Silk, & Wool.	Corsets	Kettering Corset Manufacturing 1
	Cotton Cloth	Burnley Self-Help Manufacturing..... 2
	Fustian	Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing..... 3
	Hosiery	Kirkby-in-Ashfield Manufacturers..... 4
	"	Wigston Hosiers 5
	Ready-made Clothing.....	Kettering Clothing 6
	"	Ideal Clothiers (Wellingborough) 7
	"	London Clothiers 8
	Quilts, Table Covers, &c.	Eccles Manufacturing..... 9
	Silk Twist	Leek Silk Twist Manufacturing..... 10
	"	Macclesfield Silk 11
	Worsted and Wool	Thomson, Wm., and Sons Limited (Huddersfield) 12
	"	Airedale Worsted Manufacturing (Bradford) 13
	"	Delph Woollen Manufacturing 14
		Total
(b) Leather Workers.	Boots and Shoes	<i>b</i> Avalon (Rothwell) Boot and Shoe 15
	"	Chesham Boot and Shoe 16
	"	Crompton (Desborough) Boot and Shoe 17
	"	Excelsior (Sileby) Boot and Shoe 18
	"	Finedon Boot and Shoe 19
	"	<i>a</i> Glenfield Boot and Shoe 20
	"	Higham Ferrers Boot and Shoe 21
	"	Kettering Boot and Shoe 22
	"	Kettering Union Boot and Shoe..... 23
	"	Leicester Anchor Boot and Shoe 24
	"	Leicester Equity Boot and Shoe 25
	"	Leicester Self-Help Boot and Shoe 26
	"	Midland (Wellingborough) Boot and Shoe 27
	"	Nantwich Boot and Shoe 28
	"	Northamptonshire Productive (Wollaston) 29
	"	Pioneer Co-operative Boot 30
	"	Ringstead Unity 31
		St. Crispin Productive (Raunds)..... 32
		" Sperope" Boot and Shoe (Barwell) 33
		Total

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES, 1916.

from the Registrar's Returns for 1915. c These societies have not made a return either to the Registrar.

	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Share Interest	NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.							
				To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
1	47523	3309	540	142	2½	945	2 0	981	0 6	100	87
2	68734	1887	219	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	84863	7130	1709	..	..	1021	1 0	2961	1 0	1	90
4	61649	416	318	110	2½	331	1 7½	220	0 2½	55	52
5	44620	2274	543	92	..	299	1 4½	483	0 3	45	11
6	158588	19162	1217	591	2½	4118	2 0	7689	1 0	250	383
7	180429	18530	1156	408	2½	3856	2 0	7460	1 0	425	71
8	6830	240	64	..	..	56	1 0	262	1 0	..	13
9	30009	1236	726	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
10	43943	4634	441	882	10	700	1 6	..	..	..	49
11	26129	499	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..
12	59887	63	740	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
13	37876	1902	366	366	5	60	0 6	839	0 6	..	67
14	7084	651	114	343	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
	864158	61933	8153	2934	..	11881	..	20895	..	883	883
15	149814	7004	216	..	..	..	0 10½	..	..	2	38
16	25526	1208	81	..	5	201	..	..	..	30	27
17	40460	953	215	..	..	..	..	..	..	118	1
18	34133	2820	140	155	5	1010	2 9	720	0 6	..	39
19	51562	5102	247	787	15	756	1 0	..	..	30	23
20	21141	845	163	54	1½	231	0 11	253	0 3	5	16
21	42675	1614	900	75	6½	327	1 0	288	0 4	117	81
22	97915	6355	497	248	2½	1664	2 0	2691	0 9	15	73
23	29761	1566	61	59	5	..	..	..	..	50	73
24	41854	2355	388	..	..	1115	1 0	1850	0 5	66	140
25	78612	5575	629	150	..	213	0 10	357	0 3½	6	3
26	25333	1137	124	142	6½	730	1 6	1054	0 9	51	143
27	67054	7043	298	216	2½	..	..	..	..	..	2
28	4855	290	20	..	..	383	1 0	291	0 3	11	11
29	44273	2574	150	150	5	..	..	..	..	..	1
30	6475	141	40	65	5	34	..	..	..	..	6
31	42359	816	150	844	..	4250	..	..	..	..	144
32	91825	11804	305	304	5	505	1 6	730	0 6	35	49
33	30917	2416	504	86	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	920544	61618	4478	3285	..	11419	..	7934	..	536	870

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(c) Metal Workers.	Needles	Alcester Needle Makers	34
	Watches	Andrews Watch Manufacturing (Coventry)	35
	.....	Coventry Watch	36
	Cutlery (1913 figures)	Sheffield Trade-union Sheep Shear Manufac.....	37
	Locks, &c.....	Walsall Locks and Cart Gear	38
	Clog Iron and Sundries	Calderdale Clog Sundries Manufacturing (Walsden)	39
Total			
(d) Wood Workers.	Cabinet Making, &c.....	Bolton Cabinet Makers	40
	.....	Bradford	41
	.....	Newcastle-on-Tyne "Household Furnishing.....	42
	.....	Midland Wood Workers.....	43
	Carriage Builders	Leicester Carriage Builders and Wheelwrights ..	44
	Ship Building, &c.....	Medway Barge Builders and Carriers	45
Total.....			
(e) Building, &c.	Building, &c.	Coventry Builders.....	46
	.....	Lincoln Land and Building	47
	.....	Oxford Builders.....	48
	.....	Wood Workers Limited (Letchworth).....	49
	
Total			
(f) Printing and Bookbinding.	Bookbinding	Bookbinders (London)	50
	Printing	Birmingham Printers	51
	.....	Blackpool Union Printers.....	52
	.....	Bristol Printers.....	53
	.....	Co-operative Newspaper (Manchester).....	54
	.....	Co-operative Printing (Manchester)	55
	.....	Derby Printers	56
	.....	Garden City Press (Letchworth).....	57
	.....	Hull Printers	58
	.....	King's Cross Publishing (London).....	59
	.....	Leicester Printers.....	60
	.....	Long Eaton Printers	61
	.....	Nottingham Printers	62
	.....	Plymouth Printers	63
	Portsmouth Printers	64
	Swansea Printers.....	65
Total			

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES, 1916.

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	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, B'ldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
34	173	1882	1236	..	1327	513	..	92	476	11	489
35	11	285	..	..	136	..	..	78	41	2	111
36	51	1201	190	17	614	400	..	281	77	11	353
37	66	1750	1682	6200	4013	7529	..	1329	..	..	5241
38	220	8209	3398	6747	10796	5359	333	573	8803	337	20144
39	137	1711	649	690	697	1353	..	1278	548	17	958
	658	14988	7155	13654	17583	15154	333	3631	9945	378	27296
40	52	1552	1609	1271	5631	377	..	160	595	45	3577
41	74	3105	3285	428	3325	2153	..	1184	410	26	2032
42	121	6363	25356	887	4447	30009	..	163	3451	96	6726
43	47	248	136	..	155	89	..	62	208	6	486
44	84	1146	1561	824	3438	766	..	112	832	27	3340
45	179	2784	3233	..	735	5289	..	10	193	16	1273
	557	15198	35180	3410	17731	38683	..	1691	5689	216	17434
46	12	134	668	..	82	498	..	28	23	1	65
47	621	5367	55279	3823	467	626	57995	5636	276	8	766
48	48	595	406	116	196	158	414	275	135	9	635
49	7	8430	16896	2208	4422	13130	3362	212	6968	..	3313
	688	14526	73249	6147	5167	14412	61771	6151	7402	18	4779
50	77	371	..	14	111	56	..	303	96	5	375
51	190	8931	1573	538	943	7392	..	1788	2445	63	4726
52	139	1124	1033	169	417	989	..	411	730	16	1196
53	66	601	260	123	212	464	..	181	203	7	582
54	353	11698	5121	1044	4070	8999	..	3114	3563	63	6619
55	702	22914	..	16885	23097	13670	..	10313	13309	454	39705
56	73	1156	1859	734	394	2886	..	466	216	10	740
57	175	8852	10860	..	3196	10443	..	171	4908	120	6332
58	65	2284	2506	2222	889	5812	..	461	650	27	1704
59	8	150	1000	1500	10	..	..	2111	1062	3	674
60	390	8502	8947	1315	6160	10027	..	1862	5092	105	7861
61	27	526	..	81	245	127	..	203	209	5	474
62	110	751	370	246	246	411	..	624	159	8	677
63	214	1361	1001	112	484	2681	..	35	629	15	1394
64	103	311	885	..	71	783	..	50	132	6	376
65	81	865	1323	206	326	1685	..	74	477	12	879
	2773	70897	36238	25189	40821	66425	..	22167	33880	919	74314

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.		
(c) Metal Workers.		
Needles.....	Alcester Needle Makers	34
Watches	Andrews Watch Manufacturing (Coventry)	35
Cutlery (1913 figures)	Coventry Watch	36
Locks, &c.....	Sheffield Trade-union Sheep Shear Manufac.	37
Clog and Iron Sundries	Walsall Locks and Cart Gear	38
	Calderdale Clog Sundries Manufac. (Walsden)....	39
	Total	
(d) Wood Workers.		
Cabinet Making, &c.	Bolton Cabinet Makers	40
"	Bradford "	41
"	Newcastle-on-Tyne Household Furnishing.....	42
"	Midland Wood Workers.....	43
Carriage Builders.....	Leicester Carriage Builders and Wheelwrights ..	44
Ship Building, &c.	Medway Barge Builders and Carriers	45
	Total	
(e) Building, &c.		
Building, &c.	Coventry Builders.....	46
"	Lincoln Land and Building	47
"	Oxford Builders.....	48
"	Wood Workers Limited (Letchworth).....	49
	Total	
(f) Printing and Bookbinding.		
Bookbinding	Bookbinders (London)	50
Printing	Birmingham Printers	51
"	Blackpool Union Printers	52
"	Bristol Printers.....	53
"	Co-operative Newspaper (Manchester)	54
"	Co-operative Printing (Manchester)	55
"	Derby Printers	56
"	Garden City Press (Letchworth)	57
"	Hull Printers	58
"	King's Cross Publishing (London).....	59
"	Leicester Printers	60
"	Long Eaton Printers	61
"	Nottingham Printers	62
"	Plymouth Printers	63
"	Portsmouth Printers	64
"	Swansea Printers	65
	Total	

	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Share Interest.	NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.							
				To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
34	3368	138	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	286	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
36	675	e21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
37	11076	1121	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
38	50974	5124	589	59	..	1900	2 0	..	..	75	50
39	6124	1023	85	85	5	45	1 0	275	1 0	..	14
	72508	7408	674	144	..	1945	..	275	..	75	66
40	8282	509	77	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
41	4462	133	152	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
42	16561	e751	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
43	1232	91	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
44	9299	497	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
45	2545	311	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	42331	1541	288	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
46	113	e10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
47	1461	501	270	..	..	..	..	..	1 0	..	..
48	936	37	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
49	10896	e302	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	18406	538	299	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
50	756	e40	..	..	..	122	0 9	91	0 3	20	15
51	11849	818	425	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
52	2917	e16	53	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
53	1456	108	27	..	..	27	..	13	..	4	..
54	26748	415	487	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
55	143543	15192	1141	1998	8 2	1404	0 9	2652	..	..	400
56	2781	261	56	5	..	31	0 10	82	0 10	7	10
57	15116	e161	220	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58	8744	479	115	..	..	43	0 6	..	..	15	..
59	4646	825	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
60	27752	3144	415	140	1	487	1 3	694	0 6	70	27
61	1016	180	26	16	3	35	1 6	42	0 10	5	3
62	1550	100	37	9	1 1	4	0 3	6	0 3	2	..
63	4532	138	63	..	..	33	0 5	25	0 1	6	5
64	797	122	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65	2471	109	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	251654	21841	3098	2222	..	2186	..	3605	..	129	484

e Loss after deducting share interest.

	No. of Mem- bers.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Em- ployees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
							House Prop- erty.	All other Invest- ments.			
66	h10	£ 1-277	£ 26728	£ ..	£ 12536	£ 13276	£ ..	£ 17926	£ 3033	49	£ 4364
67	481	1714	592	..	339	3062	..	23	2402	8	525
68	41	434	816	137	216	531	..	278	785	4	155
	532	20425	28136	137	13091	16869	..	18227	6220	61	5044
69	622	3474	3186	200	901	5522	..	28	1473	35	2859
70	h2	800	..	55	120	556	..	306	..	5	339
71	h7	1850	1266	..	266	1642	..	271	605	11	771
72	h5	1711	3666	300	503	2424	..	1851	171	19	1418
73	9	400	681	210	154	869	..	185	176	7	619
74	80	912	..	130	46	905	..	91	..	..	235
75	3348	4962	1473	883	899	4864	194	38	4088	28	2106
	4073	14109	10272	1777	2889	16782	194	2770	6513	105	8347
76	h10	3417	1441	512	312	3776	..	1383	404	43	2258
77	h7	3493	800	..	588	3395	..	620	48	68	3041
78	17	4012	3014	20	258	6771	..	66	202	40	1911
79	h15	20970	8369	..	1598	29519	..	253	1425	342	11692
80	57	16430	29833	2354	1293	22211	..	25282	1679	203	9672
81	h13	4509	2250	70	519	6770	..	250	54	60	3181
82	h20	7000	7917	..	604	14888	..	40	79	76	3859
	139	59831	58624	2956	5172	87330	..	27894	9891	832	35614
83	57	363	..	2276	598	..	..	3067	509	17	1637
84	253	3419	1139	568	2818	1426	..	523	3755	14	1230
85	507	22143	6798	2759	20736	12169	..	1774	5694	150	9383
86	225	3221	1016	659	2858	891	..	827	7747	15	1044
87	146	1536	886	1400	561	2400	..	1506	135	11	810
	1188	30682	9839	7662	27571	16886	..	7697	17840	207	14104
88	6268	60724	79280	9707	31290	38535	6706	74373	16525	460	30912
89	156	10000	..	3000	1240	14677	..	558	4013	78	5557
90	200	1833	550	1743	402	927	..	2298	1252	21	1837
91	h69	215	138	214	..	..	..	1702	640	5	312
	425	12048	688	4957	1642	15604	..	4558	5905	104	7706
92	453	1823	36	123	276	1131	..	873	127	7	481
93	4254	40140	774	2316	2885	12493	2426	29426	1444	103	8183
94	272	1384	..	..	101	602	..	789	..	..	390
95	312	2298	214	113	220	1148	..	915	621	4	447
96	h7	1030	13187	1009	1658	4308	256	9945	771	33	3082
97	209	220903	298371	103191	75682	231728	4972	315884	25545	1615	190612
98	h7	7322	46192	2633	6923	9308	686	43302	772	85	7324

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.		NAME OF SOCIETY.	
ENGLAND AND WALES—Continued.			
(G) Corn Milling	Corn Milling	Derwent Flour Mills	66
	"	Northallerton Corn Mill	67
	"	Sherston Milling	68
		Total	
(H) Baking.	Baking	Alfred Joint Stock Bread and Flour	69
	"	Codnor Park and Selston Baking	70
	"	Colne Valley Baking	71
	"	Co-operative Bakeries (West Stanley)	72
	" (1913 figures)	dCymmmer, Corrwg, and Gwynfi Baking	73
	"	Greenwich Bread and Flour	74
		New Swindon Provident	75
		Total	
(I) Laundries.	Laundries	Dewsbury	76
	"	Hyde	77
	"	Keighley	78
	"	Manchester and District	79
	"	Newcastle	80
	"	North-East Lancashire	81
	"	Rochdale and District	82
		Total	
(J) Various.	Bass Dressers	London Bass Dressers	83
	General	aBrandsby Agricultural Trading	84
	Grocery Sundries, &c.	Co-operative Sundries (Droylsden)	85
	"	Morning Star Sundries (Leicester)	86
	Mineral Water Manufacturers	Licensed Trade Supply (Coventry)	87
		Total	
SCOTLAND.			
(A) Cotton and Wool—Woollen & Cotton		Paisley Manufacturing	88
(F) Printing and Bookbinding—Printing		Edinburgh Printing	89
"	"	Glasgow Civic Press	90
"	"	" Scottish Newspaper	91
		Total	
(H) Baking		Auchterarder Baking	92
"		Bainsford and Grahamston Baking	93
" (1913 figures)		Burntisland Bread	94
"		Carronshore Baking	95
"		Chapelhall Federated Baking	96
"		Glasgow United Baking (Glasgow)	97
"		Hamilton Baking	98

NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.											
	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Share Interest.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes	Charitable Purposes
66	£ 229228	£ 3408	£ 914	£ ..	..	£ ..	s. d. ..	£ 2428	s. d. 0 8	£ ..	£ 7
67	10708	86	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
68	6590	114	22	..	..	..	..	58	0 6	..	1
	246526	3558	936	..	..	..	..	2466	..	..	8
69	32124	2871	171	..	..	..	..	2483	1 10	..	4
70	3508	181	40	..	..	..	..	88	0 4	..	..
71	6275	195	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
72	12803	821	86	..	..	..	..	264	0 6	..	..
73	4438	120	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
74	1173	56	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
75	32587	5116	238	..	..	..	..	4209	3 0	..	6
	93908	9310	598	..	..	..	..	6994	..	..	10
76	4578	530	170	158	5	..	..	161	0 9	..	2
77	7061	415	141	..	..	..	..	321	2 2½	..	..
78	4727	270	201	..	..	..	..	..	1 0	..	2
79	26090	2862	1040	..	..	..	..	1095	2 0	..	..
80	29502	2016	846	..	..	..	..	648	0 6	..	6
81	6690	747	225	..	..	..	..	264	0 10	..	..
82	8990	1078	280	..	..	..	..	243	0 6	..	..
	87638	7918	2903	158	..	..	..	2732	..	..	10
83	6562	700	28	..	..	344	5 0	..	..	72	30
84	33157	826	167	..	..	..	..	193	..	..	..
85	97492	6318	1576	..	..	932	2 3	3487	0 9	..	64
86	49503	1108	163	59	1½	69	1 6	663	0 4	20	49
87	4604	662	76	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	2
	191918	9614	2010	59	..	1365	..	4343	..	102	145
88	211020	14232	2999	..	..	1128	0 8	2423	0 8	..	390
89	11329	453	400	..	..	57	..	..	..	..	12
90	4763	223	92	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
91	5002	160	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
	21094	836	503	..	..	57	..	..	..	..	99
92	4822	377	77	..	..	..	..	164	1 4½	..	2
93	81160	12473	1523	..	..	..	..	10478	3 0	56	113
94	1925	189	69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
95	4789	844	81	..	..	..	..	682	3 1½	..	..
96	40894	6572	51	..	..	..	..	6485	2 2	..	59
97	1188287	104539	10755	..	..	8421	1 3½	73604	1 3½	1539	961
98	88504	6271	362	..	..	..	..	5856	1 4½	..	53

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
<i>SCOTLAND—Continued.</i>		
(H) Baking	Kettle Baking	99
"	Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	100
	Total	
(I) Laundry	Scottish Laundry (Barrhead)	101
<i>ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.</i>		
(J) Biscuits, Sweets, &c.	Crumpsall	102
(J) Preserves, Pickles, &c.	Middleton	103
(J) Soap, &c.	Irlam, Silvertown, and Dunston	104
(G) Flour Mills	Dunston, Silvertown, Trafford, Oldham, Avon- mouth, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax and Slaithwaite	105
(J) Tobacco	Manchester	106
(J) Lard	Hartlepool	107
(F) Printing Works	Longsight, Leicester, and Pelaw	108
(A) Flannel	Littleborough	109
(A) Hosiery	Huthwaite	110
(A) Corsets	Desborough	111
(A) Shirt Factories	Broughton and Pelaw	112
(A) Woollens	Batley	113
(A) Weaving Sheds	Bury and Radcliffe	114
(A) Clothing Factories	Leeds, Broughton, and Pelaw	115
(B) Boot and Shoe Works	Leicester, Heckmondwike, and Rushden	116
(D) Cabinet Works	Broughton and Pelaw	117
(J) Brushes	Leeds	118
(C) Iron Works	Keighley	119
(C) Hardware	Dudley	120
(C) Tinplate	Birtley	121
(J) Paints	Rochdale	122
(J) Creameries	Roden, Marden, Coldham, Clitheroe and Crewe	123
(J) Farms		124
	Total	
<i>SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.</i>		
(A) Woollen and Clothing	Shieldhall (Glasgow) and Ettrick Mills, Selkirk	125
(B) Leather, Boots and Shoes	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	126
(D) Cabinet, Brush, Saddlery, & Tinware	" "	127
(F) Printing and Bookbinding	" "	128
(G) Corn Milling, &c.—Chancelot, Junction, and Regent Flour Mills	Edinburgh and Glasgow	129
(J) Various— Preserves, Confections, Chemicals, Pickles, and Coffee	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	130
Tobacco	" "	131
Miscellaneous	" "	132
Soap	Grangemouth	133
	Total	

	No. of Members.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.					No. of Employees on Dec. 31st.	Salaries and Wages.
		Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Bldings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£
99	518	1544	84	228	175	592	..	1610	60	8	785
100	354	693	..	100	137	290	..	635	8	4	328
	6386	277137	358808	109713	87557	261530	8340	403379	29348	1859	151622
101	478	5060	12852	2367	1225	11547	..	7005	935	215	11599
102	86678	..	25515	30488	..	..	..	646	35949
103	314785	..	197576	46928	..	..	..	793	60418
104	600712	..	365580	109943	..	..	..	1561	110101
105	1712218	..	687958	522125	..	..	..	1016	134416
106	215986	..	148290	13356	..	..	..	789	44536
107	40339	..	26751	2787	..	..	..	26	2052
108	177823	..	78247	31764	..	..	..	1541	105363
109	41523	..	30324	17392	..	..	..	124	8350
110	77588	..	44896	31952	..	..	..	660	33238
111	45252	..	35405	9636	..	..	..	351	15985
112	98897	..	75504	12885	..	..	..	958	46265
113	39808	..	27538	6848	..	..	..	258	18025
114	94297	..	44230	49888	..	..	..	613	38376
115	103687	..	46988	31617	..	..	..	1695	105528
116	280986	..	195350	63573	..	..	..	2686	193439
117	62848	..	41402	11862	..	..	..	315	35060
118	26294	..	16005	7369	..	..	..	194	13997
119	17624	..	10021	5125	..	..	..	100	8880
120	22415	..	9802	11368	..	..	..	125	10718
121	5380	..	2912	2721	..	..	..	34	2891
122	10567	..	12645	..	..	..	..	17	1838
123	1000	..	31	25	..	..	..	49	1826
124	116508	..	24810	113728	..	..	..	157	10270
	3965	392533
	III.	III.
	4193145	..	2147775	1183320	..	..	..	18673	1430054
125	161003	..	122923	54800	..	..	..	1920	98160
126	87614	..	72432	14263	..	..	..	1149	75486
127	71196	..	47115	27548	..	..	..	458	94535
128	59911	..	30154	36981	..	..	..	398	25286
129	639011	..	500040	84075	..	..	..	264	35237
130	91829	..	65628	23797	..	..	..	700	38203
131	73175	..	68857	1168	..	..	..	205	9745
132	85641	..	51583	47747	..	..	..	325	22712
133	46582	..	36756	14405	..	..	..	154	11708

	1809962	..	995488	304784	..	..	..	6867	351022
	II.	II.

h Societies.

In Purchasing Depôts, Shipping and Building Departments, Creameries, &c.

ii. Buying Branches and Service Departments.

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	
<i>SCOTLAND—Continued.</i>		
(H) Baking	Kettle Baking.....	99
"	Newburgh and Mount Pleasant Baking	100
	Total	
(i) Laundry.....	Scottish Laundry (Barrhead)	101
<i>ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.</i>		
(J) Biscuits, Sweets, &c.	Crumpsall	102
(J) Preserves, Pickles, &c.	Middleton	103
(J) Soap, &c.	Irlam, Silvertown, and Dunston	104
(G) Flour Mills	Dunston, Silvertown, Trafford, Oldham, Avon- mouth, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax and Slaithwaite	105
(J) Tobacco	Manchester	106
(J) Lard	Hartlepool	107
(F) Printing Works	Longsight, Leicester, and Pelaw	108
(A) Flannel	Littleborough	109
(A) Hosiery	Huthwaite	110
(A) Corsets	Desborough	111
(A) Shirt Factories	Broughton and Pelaw	112
(A) Woollens	Batley	113
(A) Weaving Sheds	Bury and Radcliffe	114
(A) Clothing Factories	Leeds, Broughton, and Pelaw	115
(B) Boot and Shoe Works	Leicester, Heckmondwike, and Rushden	116
(D) Cabinet Works	Broughton and Pelaw	117
(J) Brushes	Leeds	118
(J) Iron Works	Keighley	119
(C) Hardware	Dudley	120
(C) Tinplate	Birtley	121
(J) Paints	Rochdale	122
(J) Creameries		123
(J) Farms	Roden, Marden, Coldham, Clitheroe, and Crewe..	124
	Total	
<i>SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY.</i>		
(A) Woollen and Clothing	Shieldhall (Glasgow) and Ettrick Mills, Selkirk ..	125
(B) Leather, Boots and Shoes	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	126
(D) Cabinet, Brush, Saddlery, & Tinware	"	127
(F) Printing and Bookbinding	"	128
(G) Corn Milling, &c.—Chancelot, Junction, and Regent Flour Mills	Edinburgh and Glasgow	129
(J) Various—		
Preserves, Confections, Chemicals,		
Pickles, and Coffee	Shieldhall (Glasgow)	130
Tobacco	"	131
Miscellaneous	"	132
Soap	Grangemouth	133
	Total	

	Sales during the Year.	Profits during the Year.	Share Interest	NET PROFIT (after paying share interest stated : HOW DIVIDED.							
				To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
				Amount Paid.	Rate per cent.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £ on Wages.	Amount Paid.	Rate per £.	Educational Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
	£	£	£	£		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	£
99	6753	862	70	..	..	..	..	809	2 6½	..	5
100	2875	439	17	..	..	..	..	238	2 0	..	2
	1420009	182566	13010	..	..	8421	..	98316	..	1595	1195
101	25382	1429	249	..	..	..	..	1139	1 0	10	23
102	385530	21510	2132	..	..	..	..	..	0 5	..	..
103	823023	27649	8639	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
104	1873579	72070	15017	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
105	9537745	173206	47453	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
106	970919	4746	5940	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
107	232691	13139	864	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
108	310901	3402	4815	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
109	66895	4367	1183	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
110	191268	4855	2086	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
111	55541	3327	1212	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
112	233168	8798	2788	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
113	70602	1781	1133	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
114	216974	4059	2573	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
115	194916	1998	2838	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
116	912105	19982	8168	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
117	93858	2005	1770	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
118	39571	986	711	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
119	34800	1045	441	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
120	49664	2401	604	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
121	7034	123	139	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
122	18801	657	265	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
123	54804	177	7	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
124	49920	2547	3249	..	..	..	..	..		..	..

	16367509	374780	114027	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
125	316776	9504	3645	..	..	..	..	..	0 8	..	..
126	382816	6473	1986	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
127	104580	2160	1612	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
128	109647	4768	1353	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
129	2291180	39696	14438	..	..	..	..	..		..	..

130	446761	12907	2085	..	..	..	..	..	0 8	..	..
131	353376	8555	1662	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
132	491324	6444	1843	..	..	..	..	..		..	..
133	211694	13288	1053	..	..	..	..	..		..	..

	4708104	103795	29677	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.					
No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.	Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to Society for Goods.
							House Property.	All other Invest- ments.	
England and Wales.....	87	21985	£ 450766	£ 205635	£ 526733	£ 429370	£ 63318	£ 194510	£ 242447
Scotland.....	14	13157	£ 451628	£ 126744	£ 121714	£ 327216	£ 15046	£ 483315	£ 52713
English Wholesale Society.....	1	..	£ 410345	..	£ 2147775	£ 1133220	..	..	..
Scottish Wholesale Society.....	1	..	£ 1300902	..	£ 995488	£ 304784	..	..	..
Total.....	103	35142	£ 6405501	£ 336279	£ 3791716	£ 2194690	£ 78364	£ 683825	£ 265160

NET SURPLUS (after paying share interest stated): HOW DIVIDED.												
No. of Employees on December 31st.	Salaries and Wages.	Trade during the Year.	Amount of Surplus for 1916.	Share Interest.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
					Amount Paid.	£	Amount Paid.	£	Amount Paid.	£	Educa- tional Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.
1	£ 530267	£ 2733986	£ 183478	£ 23437	£ 8802	£ 28226	£ 9606	£ 49264	£ 1728	£ 24*4	£ 1707	£ ..
2	2638	1677505	149063	16761	..	9606	..	101878	1605	..	..	..
3	18673	1430054	374780	114027	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	6867	463103	103795	29677	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35824	2025263	25537104	811116	183902	8802	37902	37902	151142	3383	..	..	4191

* After deducting losses given in detailed tables. † In addition to interest.

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES

(Exclusive of the Productive Departments of the Wholesale Societies).

OBJECT OF MANUFACTURE.	LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.								
	No. of Societies.	No. of Mem- bers.	Share Capital.	Loans, including any Overdraft from Bank.		Reserve Fund.	Value of Stock in Trade.	Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery, and Fixed Stock.	Investments.		Owing to the Society for Goods.	
				£	£				£	£		House Property.	All other Invest- ments.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—												
Cotton, Linen, Silk, and Wool	14	6541	181229	118664	84606	236612	109591	745	57030	98914	1	
Boots and Shoes, and Leather	19	4896	92856	78409	63997	160102	46938	275	47252	57153	2	
Metal, Hardware, &c.	6	658	14988	7155	13654	17583	15154	883	3631	9945	3	
Wood Workers	6	557	15198	35180	3410	17731	39683	..	1691	5689	4	
Building and Quarrying	4	688	14526	73249	6147	5167	14412	61771	6151	7402	5	
Printing and Bookbinding	16	2773	70397	36238	25189	40821	66425	..	22167	33380	6	
Corn Milling	9	532	20425	28136	137	13091	16869	..	18227	6320	7	
Baking	7	4073	14109	10272	1777	2889	16782	194	2770	6513	8	
Laundries	7	139	59831	53624	2956	5172	87330	..	27894	9801	9	
Various	5	1188	30682	9839	7662	27571	16886	..	7697	17840	10	
Total	87	21985	514241	450766	209535	526739	429970	63318	194510	242447		
SCOTLAND:—												
Cotton and Wool	1	6268	60724	79280	9707	31290	38535	6706	74373	16525	1	
Printing and Bookbinding	3	425	12048	688	4957	1642	15604	..	4558	5905	2	
Baking	9	6386	277137	358808	109713	87557	261530	8340	408379	29348	3	
Laundry	1	78	5060	12852	2367	1225	11547	..	7005	365	4	
Total	14	13157	354969	451628	126744	121714	327216	15046	498315	52713		

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES—Continued.

(Exclusive of the Productive Departments of the Wholesale Societies.)

NET PROFIT (after paying share interest state ¹): HOW DIVIDED.												
No. of Employees on December 31st.	Salaries and Wages.	Sales during the Year.	Amount of Profit for 1916.	Share Interest.	To Capital.		To Labour.		To Purchaser.		Subscriptions.	
					† Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Amount Paid.	Educa- tional Purposes.	Charitable Purposes.		
1					£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2	3095	180657	864158	61933	8153	2934	11351	20695	883	883	883	883
3	1815	162068	920544	61618	4478	3285	11419	7934	596	596	596	596
4	378	27296	72503	7408	674	144	1945	275	75	75	75	75
5	216	17434	42331	1541	288	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	18	4779	13406	538	299	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	919	74314	251654	21341	3098	2222	2186	3605	129	129	129	129
8	61	6044	246526	8568	936	..	..	2486	8	8	8	8
9	105	8347	98308	9310	598	..	..	6994	..	..	..	..
10	892	35614	87638	7918	2903	158	..	2732	10	10	10	10
	207	14104	191318	9614	2010	59	1365	4343	102	102	102	145
7646	530267	2783966	184779	28437	8802	28296	49264	172½	2484	2484	2484	2484
..	..	..	£1301	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
460	30012	211020	14232	2909	..	1128	2423	..	390	390	390	390
104	7706	21094	836	503	..	57	..	..	99	99	99	99
1859	151622	1420009	132566	18010	..	8421	98316	1595	1186	1186	1186	1186
215	11599	25882	1429	249	..	..	1139	..	23	23	23	23
2638	201839	1677505	149063	16761	..	9606	101878	1606	1707	1707	1707	1707

† In addition to interest.

e Total amount of losses of various societies.



Detailed List of Subscriptions
AND
Cash Account.



Detailed List of Subscriptions Received from Societies

FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.

IRELAND.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
379	Armagh	1	19	6
471	Ballymena and Harryville ..	2	9	1
14200	Belfast	73	19	2
118	Callan Co-op. Agricultural..	0	12	2
100	Coalisland	0	10	5
635	Cork, City of	1	19	0
106	Drumaness	0	11	0
—	Drumreaney	0	10	5
570	Dublin Industrial	2	19	5
—	" Consumers	1	0	0
185	" University	0	10	0
450	Dundalk	1	17	8
—	Dungannon	0	5	0
288	Enniskillen	1	10	0
—	Foynes	0	12	8
61	Greencore	0	6	0
100	Inchicore	0	12	6
327	Irish Agricul. C. Wholesale..	3	0	0
—	" Organisation	4	0	0
—	" Co-operative Agency ..	0	10	6
100	Larne	0	10	5
1540	Lisburn	7	11	0
167	Luncan	0	17	6
98	Middletown	0	10	3
250	Newtownards	1	6	0
130	Ochilmore	0	11	8
388	Portadown	2	0	5
364	Queenstown	1	17	1
60	Ro-slare Harbour	0	6	3
247	Sligo	1	0	0
—	Warrenpoint	0	5	0
80	Whealt	0	8	4
21414		£116	18	5

MIDLAND SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
290	Aberystwyth	1	10	3
3955	Alcester	20	8	0
153	" Needle Makers	1	10	0
16	Andrews Co-op. Watch Manufacturing, Coventry..	0	5	0
838	Annesley Colliery	4	7	4
423	" Woodhouse	2	4	1
610	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	3	3	6
801	Atherstone	4	3	5
194	Barrow-on-Soar	1	0	2
1385	Barwell	7	4	3
681	Bideford	3	10	11
36426	Birmingham Industrial	161	17	4
185	" Printers	1	5	0
68	Blakesley	—	—	—
137	Blue Lias	0	12	6

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1538	Bolsover	7	16	4
2299	Boston	11	13	4
44	Bourton-much-Wenlock	0	4	7
—	Brassington	0	6	0
326	Bridgnorth	1	14	0
185	Broughton Astley	0	14	1
2106	Bulwell	—	—	—
539	Burbage	2	16	2
834	Burton Latimer	4	6	10
10204	Burton-on-Trent	52	6	8
3860	Cannock and District	20	2	0
314	Cheadle (Staffs.)	1	12	8
675	Chirk and District	3	10	3
2169	Cinderhill	11	12	3
5595	Coalville	27	14	8
894	Codnor Park and Ironville ..	4	13	2
2	" and Selston Baking ..	0	5	0
117	Cogenhoe	0	12	3
—	Co-operative Productive Federation	1	0	0
183	Cosby	1	0	0
146	Coventry Licensed Trade ..	1	10	0
12	" Builders	0	5	0
21952	" Perseverance	114	6	8
58	" Watch Manufact'g	0	12	0
132	Croft	0	18	9
257	Crompton Boot Manufact'rs (Desborough)	2	0	4
1360	Daventry	5	4	4
88	Denton	0	9	2
30395	Derby	158	6	0
73	" Printers	0	15	0
1706	Desborough	8	17	0
6400	Dudley	15	0	0
915	Earls Barton	4	15	3
210	Ellesmere and District	1	1	0
1003	Enderby	10	8	8
260	Fenny Compton	1	7	1
782	Finedon	4	1	6
28	" Boot and Shoe	1	0	0
440	Fleckney	2	5	10
4600	Gainsborough	24	15	0
231	Glenfield	1	4	0
249	" Progress Boot & Shoe ..	2	1	6
2635	Grantham	13	0	0
96	Groat Glen	—	—	—
7819	Great Grimsby	39	5	2
1872	Great Wigston	9	15	0
152	Groby	0	15	10
175	Hackleton	0	18	8
1472	Halesowen and Hasbury	—	—	—
328	Harbury	1	14	0
151	Harlestone	0	15	4
610	Harpole	8	8	6
257	Hathern	1	6	9
464	Higham Ferrers	2	8	4

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
260	Higham Ferrers Boot & Shoe	1	12	0
161	Highley	1	1	0
3231	Hinckley	16	16	6
108	Hollington	0	10	9
3868	Hucknall Torkard	20	8	0
152	Huncote	0	15	10
665	Huntingdon	3	11	3
1100	Ideal Clothiers—Wellingboro'	6	8	6
4872	Ilkeston	25	15	2
400	Irchester	2	2	0
1019	Ironbridge & Coalbrookdale.	5	6	2
612	Irthlingborough	3	3	9
8460	Kettering	40	6	8
705	" Boot and Shoe	6	0	0
1505	" Clothing	8	10	0
375	" Corset Manufac.	3	0	0
269	" Union Boot & Shoe	2	4	10
246	Keyworth			
3329	Kidderminster	17	6	8
128	Kirby Muxloe	0	13	4
2518	Kirkby-in-Ashfield	13	2	4
299	" Manuftrs.	1	5	0
5906	Langley Mill and Aldercar	30	4	5
620	Langwith	3	4	7
438	Lea and Holloway	2	5	9
25325	Leicester	130	4	0
560	" Anchor Boot & Shoe	4	10	0
—	" Tenants	0	12	6
978	" Boot & Shoe	8	0	0
—	" Carriage Builders	0	12	0
—	" Co-op. Sm'l H'lders	0	10	6
160	" Morning Star Sun-dries	1	1	0
384	" Printing	2	8	0
192	" Self-Help Bt. & Shoe	1	10	0
16033	Lincoln Equitable	82	10	0
618	" Land and Building	3	5	0
2600	Lockhurst Lane	13	11	2
1002	Long Buckley	5	4	5
10243	Long Eaton	58	0	6
27	" Printing	0	5	0
533	Loughborough	2	15	6
405	Lowdham	2	2	2
11275	Mansfield and Sutton	55	14	8
2913	Market Harborough	15	3	5
170	Markfield	0	17	8
242	Mayfield	1	5	3
1554	Melton Mowbray	3	18	0
207	Midland Boot Manufacturers	1	5	0
47	" Wood Workers	0	5	0
359	Milford	1	16	9
383	Moulton	1	14	9
482	Mount Sorrel	2	4	10
174	Napton			
—	National Managers' Assoc.	1	0	0
2545	Netherfield	11	18	7
2184	Newark	11	2	0
1171	Newtown, Mont.	5	6	4
189	Northamptonshire Productive	1	10	0
6763	Northampton	35	4	6
14	" I.L.P. Boot	0	5	0
15304	Nottingham	79	14	0
109	" Printers	0	15	0
7212	Nuneaton	37	11	0
812	Oadby	1	12	6
2542	Oakengates	13	4	9
1065	Oswestry	5	10	8
17550	Peterborough	91	8	0
881	Pinxton	4	11	8
74	Pioneer Boot Wks., North'nts	0	12	6
63	Pitsford	0	6	7
—	Planet Mutual Insurance	0	10	0

Midland Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1392	Pleasley and Pleasley Hill	7	5	0
867	Prees	1	15	0
302	Radcliffe-on-Trent	1	5	2
232	Ratby	1	4	2
1215	Raunds District	6	7	0
1525	Retford	8	8	0
186	Ringstead District	0	19	4
24	" Unity	0	5	0
11350	Ripley	59	2	2
990	Rothwell	5	3	2
220	" "Avalon" Boot and Shoe	1	10	0
597	Ruddington	3	2	3
7100	Rugby	37	0	0
1479	Rugeley	7	14	0
2448	Rushden	12	14	9
58	St. Crispin (Raunds)	2	2	0
764	St. Ives (Hunts.)	3	19	7
120	St. Martins	0	12	6
90	Saxby	0	9	5
696	Selston	3	12	6
1226	Shepherd	6	7	8
3820	Shrewsbury	19	18	0
105	Sibley Boot and Shoe ("Excelsior")	0	12	0
297	Skegness	1	12	0
6906	Soho	34	7	6
474	Southwell	2	9	4
1088	Spalding	5	5	4
230	Sperope Boot and Shoe (Barwell)	1	13	6
2723	Stafford	14	3	8
1570	Stanton Hill	8	8	6
2442	Stapleford and Sandiacre	12	14	5
279	Stoney Stanton, New	1	9	0
5368	Tamworth	27	19	2
9559	Ten Acres and Sturcheley	49	16	0
481	Thrapston	2	10	1
40	Tibberton	0	4	0
1278	Tibbself	7	3	6
1000	Tipton			
11496	Walsall	52	14	8
204	" Locks & Cart Gear	1	10	0
241	Warsop Vale	1	5	1
439	Warwick	2	5	2
1210	Wednesbury and Dist., New	5	14	7
3148	Wellingborough Midland	16	8	0
326	Welshpool	1	14	0
166	West Haddon	0	17	6
700	Whitchurch (Salop)	3	12	11
965	Wigston Hosiers	1	15	0
540	Wirksworth	1	8	0
520	Wisbech Phoenix	2	14	2
666	Wollaston	3	9	4
5020	Wolverhampton	26	3	0
5331	Worcester, New	27	15	4
803	Yardley Hastings	1	5	5

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NORTHERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
521	Allendale	2	14	3
359	Alston	1	2	11
1880	Amble	9	15	11
7725	Annfield Plain	41	7	0
5041	Ashington Industrial	26	5	1
936	" Equitable	4	14	8
2164	Aspatia	11	7	7

Northern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
910	Backworth.....	5	18	4
1085	Barnard Castle.....	5	11	6
219	Bearpark Colliery.....	0	11	6
596	Bebside.....	3	2	1
2298	Bedlington.....	12	0	0
4484	Birtley and District.....	23	11	4
18972	Bishop Auckland.....	98	14	8
10764	Blaydon-on-Tyne.....	56	1	0
2189	Blyth Central.....	11	8	0
9636	Boldon Industrial.....	18	18	7
1458	Brandon and Byshottles.....	7	11	10
253	Brandsby Dairy and Co.....	1	6	4
1011	Broomhill.....	5	0	0
593	Cambois.....	3	1	9
9662	Carlisle.....	47	12	0
315	Castle Howard.....	1	12	10
5246	Chester-le-Street.....	27	8	6
463	Choppington.....	2	8	3
6442	Cleator Moor.....	33	11	0
248	Coanwood.....	1	5	10
2600	Consett.....	14	11	8
—	Co-op. Bakeries Ltd., West Stanley.....	1	1	0
55	Laundries' Associat'n.....	0	15	0
2127	Cornforth and Coxhoe.....	11	1	6
530	Coxlodge and Fawdon.....	3	3	2
503	Craghead and Holmside.....	2	12	6
4508	Cramlington.....	24	1	2
5066	Crook.....	26	8	0
418	Dalston.....	2	3	6
13010	Darlington.....	67	15	0
10	Derwent Flour Mill.....	2	2	0
2192	Durham.....	11	8	3
745	Easington Lane.....	4	13	2
3944	East Cleveland.....	19	3	4
1642	Egremont.....	8	10	10
772	Esh.....	4	0	5
1005	Felling Industrial.....	8	7	2
828	Shore.....	4	4	10
98	Felton.....	0	10	3
422	Fourstones and Newburgh.....	2	4	0
269	Framwellgate Moor.....	1	8	0
13821	Gateshead.....	71	19	8
—	Gilsland Convalescent Home.....	0	15	0
295	Greenhead.....	1	10	9
355	Grosmont.....	1	17	0
727	Guide Post.....	3	15	9
1590	Guisborough.....	8	5	8
1042	Haltwhistle.....	5	8	6
10472	Hartlepool.....	54	10	10
3276	Haswell.....	31	0	0
349	Haydon Bridge.....	1	16	3
375	Hebburn Colliery.....	1	19	1
638	Hedgeley.....	2	17	5
2173	Hetton Downs.....	11	3	10
—	Hexham and Acomb.....	1	1	2
80	Houghton.....	0	8	4
452	Howick.....	2	7	1
7748	Jarrow and Hebburn.....	40	7	1
713	Keswick.....	3	14	3
415	Kirkby Stephen.....	2	3	3
507	Lazonby and District.....	2	12	9
2433	Leadgate.....	12	11	4
465	Longtown.....	2	8	6
368	Low Moorsley.....	1	17	5
852	Malton and Norton.....	4	8	9
343	Marsden.....	1	13	9
354	Marske-by-the-Sea.....	1	17	1
4826	Maryport.....	24	13	4
22336	Middlesbrough.....	115	4	3
1311	Middleton-in-Teesdale.....	6	16	7
2:56	Murton Colliery.....	10	13	6

Northern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
418	Naworth Collieries.....	2	3	6
118	Nenthead.....	0	12	4
1900	Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.....	9	18	0
2367	Newbottle.....	12	8	9
1100	New Brancepeth.....	5	14	7
31041	Newcastle-on-Tyne.....	161	13	6
120	„ H'schold Furnish'g.....	1	0	0
791	„ St. Anthony's.....	3	1	9
960	New Delaval.....	5	0	0
917	Northallerton.....	4	15	6
—	Northern Section Educational Committee's Association.....	0	10	0
4033	North Shields.....	21	0	0
120	Otterburn.....	0	12	6
714	Pegswood.....	3	14	4
523	Pelton Fell.....	2	15	5
1551	Penrith.....	8	4	8
578	Pickering and District.....	3	0	2
—	Pioneer Fishing—N. Shields.....	0	10	0
1465	Pittington.....	7	12	7
410	Radcliffe.....	2	2	8
12094	Ryhope and Silksworth.....	63	13	2
3180	Seaham Harbour.....	16	11	3
268	Sea Houses & N. Sunderland.....	1	8	0
2050	Seaton Delaval.....	10	13	6
309	Seghill.....	1	12	2
3794	Sherburn Hill.....	19	15	2
1047	Shire Moor.....	5	9	0
1781	Skelton.....	9	11	8
268	South Hetton Amicable.....	1	7	11
5068	South Shields.....	31	10	7
1713	Stanhope and Weardale.....	8	18	6
1248	Station Town.....	6	10	0
17002	Stockton-on-Tees.....	88	11	0
17841	Sunderland.....	92	11	0
969	Swallowell.....	5	1	0
603	Tantobie.....	3	2	10
235	Tebay.....	0	11	9
430	Thirsk.....	2	4	8
2052	Throckley and District.....	10	9	8
160	Togston Terrace & Broomhill.....	0	16	8
1475	Tow Law.....	7	13	8
2080	Tudhoe Colliery.....	10	16	8
2954	Tweedside.....	15	7	8
1800	Tyne Dock.....	9	7	6
2156	Walker-on-Tyne.....	10	11	2
6415	Wallsend.....	33	6	8
1913	West Cornforth.....	9	19	3
1555	West Pelton.....	8	2	0
4121	West Stanley.....	21	9	2
3933	West Wylam and Prudhoe.....	20	9	10
1300	Whitby.....	6	15	4
123	Whitfield.....	0	12	7
403	Widdrington.....	2	2	0
364	Wigton.....	1	18	0
2184	Willington.....	11	7	6
1800	„ Quay and Howdon.....	9	7	6
1502	Windy Nook.....	7	14	2
2812	Workington Beehive.....	14	13	4
2460	„ Industrial.....	12	16	3

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NORTH-WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
9810	Accrington and Church.....	50	7	4
668	„ Provident.....	3	9	7
320	Addingham.....	1	13	4
828	Adlington.....	4	6	3

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
395	Ainsworth Industrial.....	2	1	2
307	" New Road.....	1	12	0
360	Airedale Worsteds Manufac.....	4	10	0
435	Allerton.....	2	5	4
348	Altofts.....	1	16	3
380	Ambleside.....	1	19	4
5534	Ashton-under-Lyne.....	28	16	5
3524	Bacup.....	18	7	1
720	Baglsate.....	3	15	0
353	Bakewell.....	1	16	8
780	Bamber Bridge.....	4	1	3
380	Bangor.....	1	19	7
131	Barkisland.....	0	13	6
1780	Barnoldswick.....	9	5	5
44835	Barnsley.....	233	10	4
613	Barrowford Industrial.....	3	3	10
14298	Barrow-in-Furness.....	74	9	0
6370	Batley.....	31	10	9
342	Battleyford Self-Help.....	1	15	7
200	Beeston.....	1	0	10
290	Bentham.....	1	10	3
760	Beverley.....	3	19	2
700	Billington and Whalley.....	3	12	11
3448	Bingley.....	18	0	0
16137	Birkenhead.....	74	8	6
3478	Birkenshaw.....	18	2	0
2241	Birstall.....	11	13	4
4315	Blackburn Industrial.....	22	9	2
4296	" Daisyfield.....	22	6	4
4272	" Grimshaw Park.....	22	5	0
6907	Blackley.....	35	19	6
10613	Blackpool.....	55	5	6
140	" Printers.....	1	5	0
39424	Bolton.....	205	6	8
60	" Cabinet Makers.....	0	10	0
75	Bradford.....	0	10	0
22758	" (City of).....	117	4	0
1421	Brierfield.....	7	7	11
8655	Brighouse.....	44	16	0
33476	Brightside and Carbrook.....	171	0	2
400	Brockholes.....	2	1	8
207	Brooksbottoms.....	1	1	3
502	Brynbo.....	2	12	4
666	Bryn Gates.....	3	10	0
730	Buckley.....	3	16	0
18339	Burnley.....	95	10	3
313	" Self-Help.....	2	10	0
12769	Burslem.....	66	10	0
13727	Bury.....	70	0	0
329	Buttershaw.....	1	14	3
2061	Butt Lane.....	10	14	8
138	Calderdale Clog Sundries.....	1	0	0
363	Carleton.....	0	8	7
—	Carnarvon.....	0	5	0
1947	Carnforth.....	10	0	0
4397	Castleford Industrial.....	22	18	0
882	Cawl Terrace.....	4	12	0
1503	Cefn and District.....	7	16	6
5072	Chester.....	26	8	4
4052	Chesterfield.....	21	1	8
8444	Chorley.....	17	18	9
616	Churwell.....	3	4	2
720	Clayton.....	3	16	3
2454	Clayton-le-Moors.....	12	15	8
5250	Cleckheaton.....	27	6	10
584	Clifton.....	3	0	10
1760	Clitheroe.....	9	3	0
974	Close Hill.....	5	0	0
1375	Clown.....	6	12	10
6144	Colne and District.....	32	0	0
7	" Valley Co-op. Baking.....	0	5	0
962	Colwyn Bay.....	5	0	2

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
3353	Compstall.....	17	9	3
3914	Congleton.....	20	1	5
239	Cniston.....	—	—	—
452	Cononley.....	2	7	1
708	Co-op. Printing Society, Manchester.....	12	10	0
—	Co-op. Secretaries' Assoc.....	1	16	6
515	" Sundries Manufctg.....	5	0	0
276	Cowling.....	1	8	4
225	Cragg Vale.....	1	3	4
794	Crawshawbooth.....	4	2	9
12315	Crewe Friendly.....	64	0	0
454	Crigglestone.....	2	8	8
3441	Crompton Provident.....	17	18	5
1100	Crosland Moor.....	5	10	6
493	Crosshills.....	2	11	4
2810	Dalton-in-Furness.....	12	10	0
8893	Darwen Industrial.....	46	6	4
114	Deiniolen.....	0	10	5
758	Delph.....	3	19	0
85	" Woollen Manufac.....	0	10	0
760	Denaby Main.....	3	19	2
600	Denholme.....	3	3	1
1564	Denton and Houghton.....	8	3	0
14320	Dewsbury Pioneers.....	74	11	8
10	" Co-op. Laundry Association.....	0	5	0
322	Diggle.....	1	13	6
337	Disley.....	1	15	1
135	Dobcross.....	0	15	7
191	Dogley Bar.....	1	0	0
15867	Doncaster.....	82	12	10
408	Dove Holes.....	2	0	5
348	Driffield.....	1	16	3
1189	Drighlington.....	6	0	6
7214	Droylsden.....	37	11	4
821	Eagley.....	4	5	4
1019	Earby.....	5	6	2
3140	Earlestown.....	16	7	0
221	Eccles Manufacturing.....	1	15	0
18757	" Provident.....	97	1	7
593	Eccleshill.....	3	1	9
468	Eckington.....	2	8	9
325	Edenfield.....	1	13	10
540	Edgworth.....	2	16	3
320	Egerton.....	1	13	4
112	Eiff Workmen's.....	0	11	6
1600	Ellesmere Port.....	8	6	8
456	Emley.....	2	7	6
820	Emmerys' Prov. (Port S'light).....	4	5	5
138	Esrick and District.....	0	14	5
166	Ewlce Place.....	0	12	6
11200	Failsworth.....	58	6	8
8246	Farnworth and Kearsley.....	42	19	0
148	Ffynnon Groyw.....	0	15	5
160	Firgrove.....	0	16	3
3107	Fleetwood.....	16	3	8
751	Flint and Oakenholt.....	3	18	3
791	Fylde—Kirkham.....	4	2	4
310	Gargrave.....	1	12	3
1483	Garston and District.....	8	4	6
3340	Glossop Dale.....	17	8	0
994	Golcar.....	5	3	6
1062	Gomersal.....	5	10	0
3200	Goole.....	16	13	4
159	Grange Moor Friendly.....	0	16	7
354	Grasscroft.....	1	17	0
6229	Great Horton.....	32	8	10
3556	Great Harwood.....	18	10	5
199	Great Rocks.....	0	10	1
810	Greenfield.....	4	4	4
610	Greengates & Apperley Bdg.....	2	19	8

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
124	Gregson's Lane	0	12	7
1295	Guiseley	6	13	9
1655	Hadfield	8	12	5
12282	Halifax Industrial	63	19	4
1987	Handsworth Woolhouse	9	16	6
5472	Harrogate	28	10	0
1000	Hasland	5	4	2
3202	Haslingden Industrial	16	13	6
512	Haughton Green	2	13	4
429	Hawarden	2	4	8
300	Hawkshead	0	15	6
1079	Haworth	5	11	10
534	Hayfield	2	15	8
1338	Hazel Grove	6	14	6
276	Heapey Busy Bee	1	8	9
451	Healey	2	7	0
1185	Heath and Williamthorpe	0	17	9
894	Hebden Bridge Fustian Mfg. Industrial	10	0	0
2940	"	15	6	3
8732	Heckmondwike	45	9	8
—	" Co-op. Dyeing & Cleaning	0	5	0
424	Helmshore	2	4	2
440	Heptonstall	2	5	10
666	Hepworth	3	8	11
5192	Heywood	27	0	10
145	Higham	0	15	2
1342	Higher Hurst	6	19	9
198	Higher Walton	1	0	8
2978	Hillhouse Perseverance	15	10	2
720	Hill Top (Paddock)	3	12	9
1030	Hinchliffe Mill	5	7	4
2709	Hindley	14	1	0
855	Hindstones	4	9	1
287	Hoddlesden	1	9	11
—	Holiday Fellowship	0	10	0
760	Hollingworth	4	1	4
293	Holmfild	1	11	3
4	Holmfirth Boot and Shoe	0	10	0
1011	Holyhead	5	5	2
1253	Honley	3	5	3
1948	Horbury	10	0	5
3637	Horwich	18	18	10
180-0	Huddersfield	94	3	4
23103	Hull	120	6	6
70	" Printers	0	10	6
223	Hulton and Chequerbent	1	3	3
922	Hurst Brook	9	11	0
3342	Hyde Equitable	17	8	0
7	" Co-op. Laundries Asso.	0	5	0
200	Ilkington	0	10	0
538	Ingletton	2	15	0
205	Junction (Delph)	1	7	1
11321	Keighley	58	19	4
17	" Laundries	0	7	6
2755	Kendal	14	7	0
850	Killamarsh	4	8	6
1025	Kilnhurst	5	6	9
1075	Kippax	5	12	0
312	Kirkburton	1	12	6
491	Kirkby-in-Furness	2	10	1
301	Kirkheaton	1	11	4
12192	Lancaster and District	63	10	0
88	Lane Bottom	0	8	6
467	Lane Dyehouse	2	8	9
331	Langdale	1	14	6
55764	Leeds Industrial	290	8	8
3541	Leek and Moorlands	18	8	10
119	" Silk Twist	2	0	0
554	Lees and Cross Roads	2	16	8
119	Leeswood	0	11	9
12418	Leigh Friendly	64	13	6

North-Western Section—continued.

No of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
174	Lepton Field	0	17	8
210	Leven Valley	1	1	10
1842	Leyland and Farington	9	11	10
969	Linthwaite	5	0	6
2613	Littleborough	13	10	0
1070	Little Hulton	5	11	6
700	Little Lever	3	13	11
39287	Liverpool (City of)	204	12	6
1011	Liversedge	5	5	3
463	Livesey	2	7	11
235	Llanberis	1	4	4
415	Llandudno Junction	2	3	3
209	Llanfairfechan	1	0	0
133	Llanrug	—	—	—
1351	Longridge	7	0	9
760	Longwood	3	18	4
363	Love Clough	1	17	10
266	Lower Darwen—Fore Street	1	7	9
240	Lower Holker	1	4	11
349	Low Moor—Nelson Street	1	14	5
416	Luddenden and District	2	3	4
708	Luddendenfoot	3	13	9
134	Lumb	0	13	9
7209	Macclesfield	36	19	4
276	" Silk Manufac.	2	0	0
252	Maelor (Flint) Agricultural Co-operative Society	1	11	6
—	Manchester and District Farmers' Co-op. Associat'n	2	5	3
15	Manchester and District Co-op. Laundries	1	0	0
20486	Manchester and Salford	106	14	0
—	" Tenants	1	10	0
630	Market Weighton	3	7	7
970	Marsden Equitable	5	1	0
11809	Masbro' Equit. Pioneers	58	10	4
912	Matlock Bank	—	—	—
1202	Meltham Industrial	6	5	2
193	" Mills Provident	1	0	1
740	Middlestown	3	17	0
3979	Middleton and Tonge	20	14	6
477	Midgley	2	9	8
303	Millgate	1	11	7
1991	Millom	10	7	5
284	Millnrow	1	10	0
1835	Milnsbridge Perseverance	8	15	10
1871	Mirfield Industrial	9	15	0
870	" Perseverance	4	8	9
200	Mold Junction	1	0	0
7910	Morley	41	0	0
3128	Mossley	16	5	10
716	Mytholmroyd	3	14	7
112	Nantwich Boot and Shoe	1	1	0
—	National Labour Press	1	10	0
9376	Nelson	48	17	5
285	Netherthong	1	9	8
432	New Hey	2	5	0
2837	New Mills	14	15	6
627	New Moston	3	5	4
337	New York (Penmaenmawr)	1	15	1
13	North-East Lancashire Co-op. Laundries	0	5	0
185	North-Western Convalescent Homes Association	1	10	0
—	North-Western Educational Committees' Association	1	1	0
14183	Oldham Equitable	73	17	5
20715	" Industrial	107	17	10
3431	Ossett	17	17	4
1800	Oswaldtwistle	9	7	6
517	Oughtibridge	2	13	10
202	Oxenhope	1	1	0

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
258	Oxcroft	1	7	0
2800	Padiham	14	11	8
108	Pant-y-fownog	0	11	3
990	Parkgate and Berry Brow	5	2	10
1420	Park Lane	7	7	10
153	Peckett Well	0	15	11
30177	Pendleton	157	3	4
130	Penyffordd	0	13	6
844	Pilsley	4	6	11
561	Platt Bridge	2	18	5
425	Pocklington	2	4	4
8651	Pontefract	45	1	2
550	Poynton and Worth	2	17	3
25952	Preston	135	6	6
4832	Prestwich	25	3	4
2232	Queensbury	11	12	6
2028	Queensferry and District	10	2	0
5022	Radcliffe and Pilkington	26	3	2
2861	Ramsbottom Industrial	7	0	7
560	Ravensthorpe	2	12	1
1536	Rawdon	7	18	6
1135	Rawtensall Conservative	4	8	9
1141	Rhodes	5	18	10
267	Rhyl and District	1	7	10
202	Ribchester	1	0	8
800	Ripon and District	4	2	8
645	Ripponden	3	7	2
1475	Rishton	7	13	8
21798	Rochdale Equitable Pioneers	113	10	8
212	Roe Green, Worsley	1	2	1
2420	Royton	12	12	0
9148	Runcorn and Widnes	47	13	0
15078	St. Helens	78	10	8
337	Sabden	1	15	1
74	Salterforth	0	7	9
2330	Sandbach	12	2	8
266	Scapegoat Hill	1	7	8
1935	Scarborough	10	1	7
8	Scar Wood Coal	0	5	0
12.2	Scissett	6	6	2
4146	Scunthorpe	21	11	10
144	Sedbergh	0	15	0
804	Selby and District	4	2	1
327	Shawforth	1	14	0
413	Sheepridge	2	3	6
24020	Sheffield and Ecclesall	125	2	0
409	Shelley	2	2	3
490	Snepley	2	11	0
352	Siddall	1	16	8
1286	Silsden	6	1	7
5870	Silverdale	29	13	3
—	Skeldale Dairy	0	5	0
550	Skelmanthorpe	2	17	2
1320	Skelmersdale	6	18	3
2143	Skipton	11	1	1
2947	Slaithwaite	15	7	0
239	Smithy Bridge	1	5	0
557	South Crosland & Netherton	2	18	0
1870	Southport	9	4	0
3583	Sowerby Bridge Industrial	19	19	2
533	Stacksteads	2	14	8
854	Stainland & Holywell Green	4	9	0
4823	Stalybridge	23	10	0
117	Stanbury	0	12	2
1356	Staveley Town	7	1	3
474	Steeeton	2	9	4
11308	Stockport	58	17	11
456	Great Moor	2	7	3
2698	Stocksbridge	14	1	0
266	Styal	1	8	8
200	Summerseat & Brooksbot'ns	1	0	9
544	Sutton Mill	2	16	3

North-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
2525	Swarthmoor and Ulverston	12	16	6
701	Swinton Chorley Road	3	13	0
864	Moorside	4	10	0
826	Tadcaster	4	5	10
415	Thomson, Wm., and Sons	3	5	0
652	Thornton	3	7	8
804	Todmorden—Bridge End	4	3	6
4687	Industrial	24	8	3
74	Tong Park, Baildon	0	7	6
440	Tottington Equitable	2	5	10
384	Trawden	2	0	0
85	Turn	0	8	11
2000	Tyldesley	10	8	4
148	Upper Hopton	0	15	0
1817	Uppermill	6	17	0
458	Uppertown	2	6	10
170	Wainstalls	0	17	8
6409	Wakefield Industrial	25	11	4
2859	Walkden	14	2	0
406	Walmer Bridge	1	1	0
737	Walsden	3	16	9
220	Wardle	1	2	6
15458	Warrington	80	10	2
205	Water	1	1	4
633	Waterfoot	4	3	2
855	Waterloo	4	9	1
1120	Westhoughton Friendly	6	0	0
1528	United	7	19	2
44	West Yorks. Coal Federation	0	5	0
668	Wetherby	3	2	1
2298	Whaley Bridge	11	18	5
143	Wheatley Lane	0	15	5
125	Whelton	0	13	0
760	Whiston	3	19	2
1091	Whitefield and Unsworth	5	11	10
400	Whitewell Bottom	2	1	8
27	Whittle-le-Woods	1	8	3
878	Whitworth	4	11	5
484	Wibsey Slack Side	2	10	5
7358	Wigan	38	6	8
425	Wildsen	2	4	3
289	Windermere	—	—	—
8458	Windhill	44	1	0
291	Winehall	1	10	4
4196	Winnington and Northwich	21	17	0
3391	Winsford	17	13	3
503	Withnell	2	12	1
604	Woodley	—	—	—
624	Wooldale	3	4	8
733	Woolfold	3	14	3
4090	Worsop	21	5	0
2021	Wrexham	10	10	6
11675	York Equitable	60	16	2
535	Youlgreave	2	15	10
—	Co-op. Wholesale Society	600	0	0
—	Insurance	15	0	0
—	Newspaper	25	0	0

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SCOTTISH SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
17767	Aberdeen Northern	92	10	8
200	Abernethy	1	0	10
5133	Alloa	26	14	8
1177	Alva Bazaar	6	2	7
1565	Ardsrossan	8	3	0
640	Anniessland	3	6	8
1718	Arbroath Equitable	8	19	0

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1809	Arbroath—High Street.....	7	2	0
1398	Armadale.....	7	6	0
568	Auchenheath.....	2	19	2
979	Auchinleck.....	5	0	6
559	Auchtermuchty.....	2	16	2
2599	Avonbank.....	13	10	9
3960	Bainsford and Grahamston			
	Baking.....	10	0	0
141	Balfroun.....	0	14	2
1760	Bannockburn.....	9	3	4
52	Banton.....	0	6	5
3176	Barrhead.....	16	10	10
3472	Bathgate.....	17	18	2
776	Beith.....	4	0	10
2343	Bellshill and Mossend.....	12	4	1
1960	Blantyre.....	10	6	3
1736	Bo'ness.....	9	0	10
1184	Bonnybridge.....	7	4	7
3402	Brechin United.....	17	9	9
310	Bridge of Weir.....	1	12	4
1921	Broxburn.....	10	0	0
2155	Buckhaven.....	11	4	5
1820	Burnbank.....	9	9	8
680	Burntisland.....	3	10	10
350	Busby.....	1	16	5
480	Cadder.....	2	10	0
348	Calderbank.....	1	16	3
2035	Cambuslang.....	10	12	0
1564	Camelon.....	8	2	11
528	Campbeltown.....	2	15	0
1134	Carlisle.....	5	14	7
801	Carrick.....	4	3	5
521	Carron.....	2	14	2
373	Carstairs Junction.....	1	18	9
815	Cathcart.....	4	4	10
741	Catrine.....	3	17	2
766	Chapelhall.....	3	16	8
351	Clackmannan.....	1	16	7
652	Cleland.....	3	7	11
8009	Clydebank.....	41	14	0
282	Condorrat.....	1	9	4
1158	Coalburn and District.....	3	2	6
254	Coalsnaughton.....	1	6	6
279	Coatdown of Wemyss.....	1	9	1
7639	Coatbridge.....	39	15	8
—	Co-op. Convalescent Homes			
	Association.....	2	0	0
1804	Cowdenbeath.....	9	8	0
9912	Cowlairs.....	51	12	6
98	Creetown.....	0	10	3
216	Crieff.....	1	2	6
1043	Crofthead.....	5	8	8
824	Crosshouse.....	4	3	4
308	Cumbernauld.....	1	11	10
490	Cupar and District.....	2	11	0
510	Dalmellington.....	2	13	2
812	Dalmuir.....	4	4	7
614	Dalry.....	3	4	0
9588	Dalziel.....	49	18	9
113	Darnagavil.....	0	11	8
1120	Darvel.....	5	16	8
1052	Denny and Dunipace.....	5	5	1
297	Douglas Provident.....	1	10	10
247	„ Water.....	1	5	9
725	Dreghorn.....	3	15	6
4025	Dumbarton.....	20	19	3
2784	Dumfries and Maxwelltown.....	14	6	6
474	Dunblane.....	2	9	5
2112	Dundee (City of).....	11	0	0
2553	„ and Dist. Co-op. Coal.....	10	0	0
9568	Dunfermline.....	49	16	8
422	Duntocher and Hardgate.....	2	4	0
1849	Dykehead and Shotts.....	9	12	7

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1767	Dysart.....	9	4	1
283	Earlston.....	1	9	6
180	East Kilbride.....	0	18	9
958	East Wemyss.....	4	19	9
—	Edinburgh—People's Bank.....	2	0	0
154	„ Printing.....	—	—	—
47160	„ St. Cuthbert's.....	245	12	6
170	Fergushill.....	0	17	9
465	Frazerburgh.....	2	7	11
120	Freuchie Reform.....	0	12	6
2534	Galashiels.....	13	4	0
1296	Galston.....	8	14	8
77	Gavieside.....	0	8	0
951	Gilbertfield.....	4	19	0
200	Glasgow—Civic Press.....	1	1	0
3275	„ Drapery & Furnish.....	14	0	0
10445	„ Eastern.....	54	8	0
22204	„ Kinning Park.....	115	12	11
2648	„ London Road.....	13	15	7
4243	„ Progress.....	22	2	0
5708	„ St. Rollox.....	28	11	5
17946	„ St. George.....	93	9	4
209	„ United Co-opera-			
	tive Baking.....	25	0	0
134	Glenbuck.....	0	14	0
219	Glengowan.....	1	2	10
1573	Gorebridge.....	8	8	10
3100	Grahamston and Bainsford.....	16	2	11
1464	Grangemouth.....	7	11	9
134	Greengairs.....	0	14	0
7649	Greenock—Central.....	39	16	10
762	„ East End.....	5	0	2
546	Guard Bridge.....	3	7	4
1256	Haddington.....	6	9	2
7	Hamilton—Baking.....	2	0	0
3287	„ Central.....	16	17	2
455	„ Palace Colliery.....	2	10	6
4572	Hawick.....	23	9	0
140	Howwood.....	0	14	7
255	Hurlet and Nitshill.....	1	6	6
987	Hurlford.....	6	3	4
608	Inverleithen.....	3	3	4
368	Inverness.....	1	16	5
1165	Irvine and Fullarton.....	6	0	7
359	Jedburgh Store Co.....	1	13	10
1998	Johnstone.....	10	8	0
—	Juniper Green.....	1	0	7
443	Kelso.....	2	6	2
2240	Kelty.....	11	13	4
381	Kettle.....	1	19	11
535	„ Baking.....	1	7	10
550	Kilbarchan.....	2	17	0
1619	Kilbirnie.....	8	8	8
10177	Kilmarnock Equitable.....	53	0	1
1676	Kilsyth.....	8	14	7
1216	Kilwinning.....	6	6	8
188	Kingseat.....	1	0	0
1865	Kirkintilloch.....	9	14	3
188	Kirkconnel.....	0	19	7
1625	Laarak Provident.....	8	19	3
590	Langholm.....	3	1	6
758	Larbert.....	3	19	0
1702	Larkhall.....	8	7	8
1646	„ Victualling.....	8	16	6
217	Lassodie.....	1	2	7
34	Leavenseat.....	0	4	6
7985	Leith Provident.....	41	11	8
410	Lennoxtown.....	2	2	9
266	Leslie.....	1	7	6
1178	„ and District.....	5	1	1
2034	Leven Reform.....	10	8	4
298	Linwood.....	1	10	5
3569	Lochgelly.....	18	11	2

Scottish Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
298	Lochwinnoch	1	11	0
868	Longcroft	4	10	5
1980	Markinch	9	15	10
593	Manchline	3	1	9
180	Menstrie	0	18	9
844	Methil	4	7	11
806	Milngavie	4	4	0
122	Moffat Mills	0	13	0
690	Muirkirk	3	11	11
5520	Musselburgh and Fisherrow.	28	15	0
412	Newarthill	2	11	10
228	Newburgh and District	1	3	8
660	New Cumnock	3	8	9
1440	Newmains & Cambusnethan.	6	17	9
1178	Newmilns	6	2	9
929	Newton	1	14	8
170	Newton Mearns	0	17	8
720	Newtonshaw	3	15	0
355	Overtown	1	16	5
1759	Paisley Equitable	9	8	3
5893	" Manufacturing	25	0	0
8910	" Provident	46	8	0
425	" Underwood Coal	2	4	3
4735	Pathhead and Sinclairtown..	24	12	6
955	Peebles	4	10	0
2299	Penicuik	11	15	1
7063	Perth—City of	36	9	2
2225	" Coal	5	0	0
200	Plains	0	15	5
1527	Pollokshaws	7	19	1
1798	Port Glasgow (Fore Street)..	9	7	4
1714	" Provident	10	0	0
1119	Portobello	6	9	0
930	Prestonpans	4	16	10
1768	Renfrew Equitable	9	4	2
410	St. Andrews	2	1	11
—	Scottish Co-op. Laundry	1	0	0
—	" " Veterans' Association	0	10	0
—	" " "Co-operator"	1	0	0
—	" " Agricultural Organ.	2	0	0
1249	Selkirk	6	10	8
6766	Shettleston	35	4	8
198	Skinflats	0	18	8
1090	Slamannan	5	13	3
981	Stenhousemuir and Baking..	10	12	6
1340	Stevenson	6	19	7
4750	Stirling	24	14	9
382	Stonefield	2	0	0
535	Strathaven	2	15	9
565	Thornliebank	2	18	9
1412	Tillicoultry	7	7	1
1584	Toll Cross	9	18	0
714	Townhill	3	13	9
3000	Tranent	15	12	6
1100	Troon	5	14	7
2105	Uddingston	10	19	0
4879	Vale of Leven—Alexandria..	25	8	4
331	Walkerburn	—	—	—
293	Wanlockhead	1	10	6
1663	West Benhar	2	3	8
6076	West Calder	31	13	0
267	West Wemyss	—	—	—
163	Wigtown	0	13	6
3835	Wishaw	17	12	7
—	Scottish Co-op. Wholesale.	132	0	0
—	Falkirk District Association.	0	10	0
—	Central District Association.	0	10	0
—	Renfrew District Association.	0	10	0
—	East of Scotland District Asso.	0	10	0

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SOUTHERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
17	Addington	0	1	9
1587	Addlestone	8	5	3
1818	Aldershot	9	9	4
139	Amesbury	0	14	6
1564	Andover	8	2	10
575	Arley	2	19	11
589	Arundel	3	1	4
2447	Ashford	12	10	6
1109	Aylesbury	5	15	2
4375	Banbury	21	0	0
1363	Basingstoke	6	10	3
1733	Beebles	8	8	0
1832	Bedford Progressive	9	10	10
970	Berkhamstead	5	0	0
360	Bishop's Stortford	1	17	8
832	Bletchley & Penny Stratford.	4	6	8
810	Bedford-on-Avon	4	4	4
1520	Braintree and West Essex ..	7	8	0
68	Bramshaw	0	7	1
292	Brandon	1	13	4
1485	Brentwood and District ..	7	14	8
5053	Brighton Equitable	26	6	4
8280	Bromley and Crays	43	2	6
232	Burwell	1	9	6
1292	Bury St. Edmund's	6	5	0
436	Caine	2	5	5
7232	Cambridge	37	3	4
652	Canterbury	3	7	8
86	Carterton Agricultural and District	0	9	0
3364	Chatham and District	17	10	4
470	Chatteris	2	9	0
4111	Chelmsford	14	14	0
1181	Chesham	6	3	0
96	" Boot and Shoe	0	10	0
1780	Chippenham	9	5	4
2405	Chipping Norton	12	10	0
676	Clacton	3	10	5
345	Cliffe-at-Hoo	1	16	0
356	Coggeshall	1	17	1
8915	Colchester	46	6	8
2500	Cowes	13	0	5
475	Crawley and Ifield	2	9	6
563	Cromer	2	18	9
413	Croxley	2	1	8
6004	Croydon	31	5	5
2408	Dartford	12	18	3
840	Deveze	4	16	10
471	Diss	2	9	1
234	Dunmow	1	4	4
312	Earls Colne	12	16	6
1683	Eastleigh	8	15	4
1100	Ely	5	14	7
8180	Enfield Highway	42	12	0
1322	Epping	6	4	5
480	Fakenham	2	10	0
1024	Farnham and District	4	16	4
1499	Faversham	7	16	4
3355	Folkestone	17	9	6
724	Garden City Co-operators ..	2	19	3
175	" Press	1	1	0
6555	Gillingham	34	2	10
1364	Godalming	7	2	1
323	Gomshall	1	13	8
2447	Gravesend, Borough of ..	12	14	8
6623	Grays	36	7	11
2331	Great Yarmouth	1	1	0
395	Greenstreet	2	1	2
2755	Guildford	14	1	3
1679	Halstead	8	11	4
1748	Harwich and Dovercourt ..	8	8	0
995	Haslemere and District	5	3	2

Southern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
411	Hastings, St. Leonards, Bexhill, and District	2	2	10
1700	Haverhill	8	17	1
1177	Haywards Heath	6	2	7
623	Hemel Hempstead	3	4	11
1100	High Wycombe	6	17	7
396	Hitchin United	1	17	6
11918	Ipswich	63	0	0
2440	King's Lynn	12	14	2
170	Lakenbeath	0	15	8
1108	Leiston	5	15	5
1850	Lewes	9	9	8
—	London—Agricultural Organisation	2	0	0
1260	„ Anchor	6	11	3
—	„ Sav'gs Bnk.	0	10	0
80	„ Bookbinders	0	8	3
—	„ British Tobacco Growers	0	10	0
—	„ British Flax & H'mp Growers	0	10	0
368	„ Canteen and Mess.	5	5	0
7455	„ Civil Service Supply	38	16	6
55	„ C. Bass Dressers	0	7	0
—	„ Brotherhood Trust.	0	13	8
92	„ Clothiers	0	10	6
—	„ C. Perm't. Buildg.	10	10	0
—	„ Co-partner Ten. Ltd	4	0	0
—	„ Ealing Tenants.	1	12	1
24232	„ Edmonton	126	4	0
—	„ Fisheries Organisation	0	10	0
1692	„ Hendon Industrial.	6	8	0
8	„ King's Cross Publishing Co.	0	5	0
300	„ Perseverance	1	11	3
—	„ Residential	0	5	0
—	„ Tenant Co-operators	1	15	10
9830	„ West London	51	5	5
2136	Lowestoft	11	2	6
5986	Luton	31	3	6
717	Maidenhead	3	14	7
868	Maidstone	4	10	5
1244	Maldon and Heybridge.	6	9	6
179	Medway Ship and Barge	1	1	0
400	Melton Constable	2	1	8
450	Mere and District	2	4	8
97	Middleton Stoney	0	10	0
2209	Newhaven	11	18	0
1680	Newmarket	8	15	0
603	Newport Pagnell.	3	2	11
4465	New Swindon Industrial	21	9	7
10173	Norwich	52	19	8
280	Olney	1	9	2
11090	Oxford	57	15	2
60	„ Builders	0	6	6
4251	Parkstone and Bournemouth	22	2	10
2929	Penge and Beckenham.	15	5	0
367	Petersfield	1	17	5
14038	Portsea Island	73	1	2
320	Potton	1	12	0
673	Rainham	3	10	0
748	Ramsgate	4	13	6
64	Ravenstone	0	6	8
10416	Reading	54	5	0
1800	Reigate	—	—	—
273	Ringwood	1	8	5
5007	River and District	26	1	8
3921	Rochester	15	12	6
334	Romsey	1	14	9
1550	St. Albans	8	1	6
438	St. Neots	2	5	7
505	Saffron Walden	2	11	10

Southern Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
1653	Salisbury	9	12	0
1175	Sawston	6	2	6
629	Shanklin Lake & Branstone	3	4	7
84	Sharnbrook	—	—	—
3842	Sheerness	19	10	0
2897	„ Economical.	14	18	10
586	Sheringham	3	1	1
36	Sherston C. Milling	0	5	0
309	Silscoe	1	12	11
3886	Sittingbourne	20	4	10
2083	Slough and District	10	12	8
6550	Southampton	25	11	6
2297	Staines and Egham	11	19	2
780	Stony Stratford	4	1	3
1440	Stowmarket	7	10	0
40278	Stratford	204	13	11
250	Sun-Ingdale	1	6	0
525	Swaffham	2	14	8
86	Swanbourne	0	10	0
1436	Theford	7	9	7
765	Tiptree	3	19	8
55	Tonbridge	3	6	3
998	Tring	5	4	0
4359	Trowbridge	23	14	0
2168	Tunbridge Wells.	11	5	10
206	Union Agricole de Jersey	1	1	6
690	Walmer and Mongeham.	3	10	3
760	Warminster	3	19	0
6142	Watford	31	19	8
3190	Weymouth	17	4	4
494	Wickham Market	2	11	4
3792	Willesden and District	19	15	0
448	„ Junction	2	5	10
248	Wilton	1	5	10
1450	Winchester and District	3	15	6
1196	Windsor	6	4	8
788	Witham	4	2	0
2000	Woking	10	8	4
2313	Wolverton	11	19	7
47502	Woolwich—Royal Arsenal	247	8	1
—	„ Indus. Building.	0	18	0
500	Wymondham	2	12	0
1204	Yiewsley and West Drayton	6	5	0

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SOUTH-WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
80	Axminster	0	8	4
1224	Bath	7	13	0
413	Bideford Industrial.	2	3	0
420	Bodmin	2	4	0
698	Bovey Tracey	3	12	6
2095	Bridgwater	10	6	8
18484	Bristol	96	5	4
70	„ Printers	0	7	6
1000	Brixham	5	12	1
557	Bruton	3	15	4
858	Buckfastleigh	4	9	5
124	Budleigh Salterton.	0	13	0
757	Camborne	3	1	10
2232	Chard	11	8	3
701	Coleford	3	13	1
97	Colyton	0	10	1
225	Cornwood	1	1	2
184	Cullompton	0	19	2
120	Darite	0	12	6
462	Dartmouth	2	8	2
689	Delabole	3	11	10
189	East Harptree	—	—	—
3702	Exeter	19	5	8

South-Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
940	Exmouth	4	17	7
1150	Frome	5	19	9
273	Honiton	1	8	5
211	Ilfracombe	1	2	0
132	Kingswear	0	14	1
152	Lee Moor	0	15	10
1428	Liskeard, St. Cleer & District	14	6	3
205	Lostwithiel	1	1	4
257	Menheniot	1	6	0
320	Minehead	1	5	10
250	Moreton Hampstead			
1910	Newton Abbot	9	14	2
94	North Tawton	0	10	6
215	Oakhill	1	2	7
460	Okehampton	2	7	11
1902	Paignton	9	14	2
144	Pensilva	0	14	7
795	Penzance	4	2	10
47496	Plymouth	319	10	0
205	Printers	1	5	0
60	Plympton	3	2	6
645	Portishead	1	13	4
5493	Radstock	28	12	2
172	Roche	0	17	5
846	St. Anstell	5	1	6
335	St. Blazey	1	14	11
636	St. Columb Road	4	0	9
1116	Saltash			
620	Sidmouth	3	4	7
541	South Molton and District ..	2	16	4
900	Stoke-under-Ham	1	11	3
2537	Taunton	12	8	1
553	Tavistock	2	15	8
778	Teignmouth	4	0	7
273	Templecombe	1	8	5
976	Tiverton	4	17	6
3138	Torquay	15	14	0
275	Torrington	1	8	8
237	Truro and District	1	9	11
4113	Twerton-on-Avon	19	19	9
440	Wadebridge	2	5	10
1330	Wellington (Somerset)	6	18	6
864	Weston-super-Mare	4	10	0
2346	Yeovil	12	4	4
122594		£709	13	9

WESTERN SECTION.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
8990	Aberdare	17	13	1
280	Abergavenny	1	7	0
—	Abergwnfi	2	1	8
3305	Abersychan and Talywain ..	17	4	0
352	Afan Valley	1	15	8
1603	Alltwen and Pontardawe ..	8	6	8
1300	Ammanford	6	15	5
1486	Barry and District	7	4	2
2502	Blaenavon	13	0	8
160	Blaendulais	0	14	7
408	Blaengarw	1	11	3
7737	Blaina	40	11	0
113	Bream	0	11	7
300	Brecon and District	1	11	3
838	Briton Ferry	4	7	3
100	Bryn Colliery	0	10	5
437	Burry Port	2	5	6
893	Caerau and Maesteg	4	2	7
4539	Cainscross and Ebley	23	9	8
2850	Cardiff	14	16	0
260	Carmarthen	1	7	0
750	Chepstow	3	14	2
2791	Cinderford	14	10	9

Western Section—continued.

No. of Members.	SOCIETIES.	£	s.	d.
128	Craigcfnparc	1	6	9
7045	Cwmbach	36	13	8
378	Cwmbran and Pontnewydd ..	1	19	4
593	Cwmburla	2	6	8
272	Cwmgorse	1	5	0
732	Cwmlynnfell	1	4	2
1490	Cwmteulogy	7	15	2
459	Cymmer	2	7	9
2000	Dowlais Workmen's	13	3	6
2394	Ebbw Vale	12	9	11
670	Frampton Cotterell	3	9	10
610	Garndiffaith and Varteg ..	4	11	3
12462	Gloucester	63	9	3
315	Glyncorwg	1	7	1
200	Gorslas	1	0	10
1582	Hereford	8	4	9
460	Kemble	2	7	11
1261	Llanelli	6	11	4
80	Llangennech	0	8	4
432	Llanidloes	2	1	8
174	Lower Cwmtwrch	0	18	2
321	Lydney	1	13	5
1378	Merthyr and Troedyrhiw ..	5	12	5
2500	Mid-Rhondda	13	0	5
1849	Nantymoel	9	12	8
510	Neath Abbey and Skewen ..	2	13	1
4430	Newport (Mon.)	23	1	6
1930	New Tredegar and District ..	10	1	0
250	Pontdu	1	6	0
1510	Pembroke Dock	7	17	4
1252	Penarth	6	10	5
2691	Pen-y-graig	14	0	6
320	Pillowell and Yorkley	1	11	6
1158	Pontardulais	4	16	4
230	Pontrhydyfen	1	5	10
231	Pontyberem	1	4	1
1514	Pontycymmer	7	17	8
105	Pontyryhl			
144	Portcawl	0	5	0
630	Resolven	3	5	7
1430	Rhymney and Aber Valley ..	7	9	0
124	South Cerney	0	12	8
3950	Stroud	20	12	0
2750	Swansea	10	14	9
73	Printers	0	10	6
1002	Taibach and Port Talbot ..	5	4	4
2596	Ton Industrial	13	10	10
—	Treboeth	1	2	2
665	Trecynon and Cwmdare	3	0	5
2283	Tredegar Indus. and Prov. ..	11	10	0
1294	Treharris	6	14	9
1350	Treorchy	7	0	7
131	Trimsaran	0	13	8
79	Upper Lydbrook	0	8	3
312	W. Brecon Farmers' Assoc. ..	1	12	6
112	Whitland	0	9	9
2521	Ynysybwl	13	2	6
113304		£585	2	1

SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.
21414	Irish Section	116	18 5
442592	Midland Section	2226	15 4
374038	Northern Section	1967	14 0
1237139	North-Western Section	7048	15 6
452929	Scottish Section	2490	0 10
446080	Southern Section	22-7	10 2
122594	South-Western Section	709	13 9
113304	Western Section	565	2 1
3210090		£17432	10 1

THE CO-OPERATIVE

CASH

FROM 1st JANUARY

UNITED BOARD OR

Receipts.

[Figures in () indicate number of meetings.]

		£	s.	d.
1st January.				
To Cash in hand—Cashier		16	17	0
30th June.				
To Bank Withdrawals		24384	19	5
„ Receipts on account of		£	s.	d.
„ „ „ International Co operative Alliance ...		554	7	0
„ „ „ Anglo-Russian Hospital Fund		1314	7	0
„ „ „ Belgian Distress Fund		1	11	6
„ „ „ Belgian and Freuch Societies' Fund ...		10	0	0
„ „ „ "Hughes" Scholarship Fund		80	5	3
„ „ „ "Neale" Scholarship Fund		80	6	4
„ „ „ Blandford Memorial Fund & Leicester				
„ „ „ Infirmary		71	11	7
		2112	8	8
„ Expenses refunded on account of railway contract		9	1	5

Two Central Board Meetings: Manchester.

Six Meetings of the United Board: Manchester.

Five Meetings of the Office Committee: Manchester.

Twelve Meetings of the Sub-office Committee: (10) Manchester,
(1) Birmingham, (1) Preston.

DEPUTATIONS—

United Board: Belfast, Cardiff, Colne, Doncaster, Dublin,
Exeter, Gloucester, Lancaster, Leicester, Manchester,
Newcastle, Oxford, Paris, Sheffield, Stafford, and
Swansea.

Ruskin College Meetings: Leicester and London.

International Alliance Meetings: London.

Working Men's College Meetings: London.

War Office Committee: London.

War Office Emergency Committee: (18) London.

Women's Employment Committee: (2) London.

Boundaries: Abersychan, Garndiffaith, and Newport.

Congress Reception Committee: Lancaster and Swansea.

Scottish Annual Conference: Clydebank.

Carried forward 26523 6 6

UNION LIMITED.

ACCOUNT.

TO 31st DECEMBER, 1916.

CENTRAL OFFICE.

Expenditure.

31st December.				£	s.	d.		
By Bank Deposits				23622	5	7		
„ Cash in hand				14	9	10		
			£	s.	d.			
„ International Alliance Subscriptions paid over	554	7	0					
„ Belgian Distress Fund paid over	731	1	0					
„ "Neale" Scholarship Fund paid over	66	13	4					
„ Blandford Memorial Fund—Lancaster	10	0	0					
				1362	1	4		
„ Loan Investment—Co-operative Wholesale Society				3000	0	0		
„ LEICESTER CONGRESS—			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Travelling	139	17	4					
Expenses	272	5	0					
General Printing	61	19	9					
Reporting and Advertising	45	5	0					
Grant to Congress Reception Committee	612	1	10					
				1161	8	11		
„ UNITED BOARD MEETINGS—								
Travelling	137	8	5					
Expenses	80	11	0					
				217	19	5		
„ OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS—								
Travelling	44	5	5					
Expenses	27	10	0					
				71	15	5		
„ SUB-OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS—								
Travelling	56	5	10					
Expenses	39	12	0					
				95	17	10		
„ CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS—								
Travelling	123	10	7					
Expenses	109	16	6					
				233	7	1		
„ CENTRAL BOARD MEETING—								
Travelling	219	13	4					
Expenses	128	0	0					
				347	13			
Carried forward	2128	2	0	27998	16	9		

Brought forward £ s. d.
26523 6 6

GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE SURVEY COMMITTEE—

Full Committee: (1) Manchester.

Constitution Sub-committee: (1) Leicester, (9) Manchester,
(4) London.Productive and Distributive Sub-committee: (1) London, (1)
Leicester, (6) Manchester.

Educational Sub-committee: (1) Lytham, (1) London, (3) Manchester.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—

(1) Carlisle, (1) London, (3) Manchester, (1) Newcastle.

JOINT COMMITTEE, TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS—

Birmingham, Manchester, and Plymouth.

DEFENCE COMMITTEE—

Manchester.

CONCILIATION BOARDS—

National: (1) Manchester.

District: (1) Halifax, (2) Manchester.

	£	s.	d.
To Sale of Pamphlets, Song Books, &c.	1181	1	10
" " Rules	651	4	9
" " Bond Forms and Impressed Stamps	12	18	9
" " Co-operative Directories	60	11	0
" " Congress Report	52	6	7
" " "Our Story"	136	18	2
" " "Industrial Co-operation"	34	17	2
" " "Co-operative Bookkeeping"	87	3	5
" " Exercise Pads	20	17	3
" " Managers' Text Book	12	15	5
" " Apprentices' Text Book	0	19	0
" " "Co-operative Secretary"	20	17	7
" " "Co-operative Auditing"	8	5	8
" " "Co-operation for All"	98	7	10
" " Other Publications	90	0	5
" " Quarterly Reviews	23	16	3
" Postages repaid	30	7	10
		2523	8 11
" Trade Dividend and Interest on Shares—			
Co-operative Printing Society	62	1	0
Insurance Society	1	16	3
Derby Printers	1	0	5
		64	17 8
" Hire of Rooms		105	2 10
" Advertising—			
General		46	10 0
Congress Fund		59	15 0

Carried forward 29323 0 11

CASH ACCOUNT.

785

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	2128	2	0	27998	16	9
By GENERAL CO-OPERATIVE SURVEY COMMITTEE—						
Travelling	201	7	3			
Expenses	118	11	6			
Honorarium	20	0	0			
General Printing	81	3	6			
				421	2	3
„ PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—						
Travelling	66	15	2			
Expenses	34	0	6			
General Printing	2	0	6			
				102	16	2
„ JOINT COMMITTEE TRADE-UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATORS—						
Travelling	25	19	10			
Expenses	12	10	0			
General Printing	1	5	0			
				39	14	10
„ DEFENCE COMMITTEE—						
Travelling	3	15	8			
Expenses	2	0	0			
				5	15	8
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—						
Travelling	68	16	2			
Expenses	38	0	0			
General Printing	22	8	0			
				129	4	2
„ Salaries and Wages	1619	17	11			
„ Staff on Active Service	298	16	6			
„ War Bonus	93	6	0			
„ National Health Insurance	4	2	6			
„ Auditing	20	0	0			
				2036	2	11
„ Honorarium (Mrs. J. C. Gray)	104	0	0			
„ GENERAL PRINTING AND PURCHASES—						
Circulars and Stationery				1115	2	5
Publications	2125	14	3			
„ Purchased	90	17	6			
Impressed Stamps	0	15	3			
				2217	7	0
„ Rates and Taxes	418	1	6			
„ Insurance	25	17	6			
				443	19	0
„ Cleaning	90	2	6			
„ Carriage	28	19	6			
„ Postages	483	4	5			
„ Coke, Heating, and Lighting	87	12	8			
„ Telegrams	7	13	4			
„ Sundries	30	19	11			
„ Caretakers	30	4	0			
„ Co-operative News and Co-operator	52	5	6			
„ Advertising	22	16	10			
„ Office Furniture and Repairs	49	7	1			
„ Legal Advice	150	6	1			
„ Amendment of Rules	1	0	0			
„ Telephone Rents and Charges	23	13	11			
„ Conference Teas	13	5	0			
„ Registrar's Lists and Reports	2	1	7			
„ Paper and Twine	25	5	9			
„ Railway Contract	53	7	0			
„ Interest on Women's Guild Loan	12	0	0			
				1169	5	1
„ GRANTS TO—						
Ruskin College	100	0	0			
War Emergency Workers' Committee	30	0	0			
International Co-operative Alliance	50	0	0			
Agricultural Organisation—England	21	0	0			
Hodgson Pratt Memorial	5	0	0			
				206	0	0

Carried forward 10118 11 6 27998 16 9

Brought forward £ s. d.
29323 0 11

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION—

Education Committee Meetings: (1) Birkenhead, (1) Birmingham, (1) Lytham, (2) Manchester.

Education Sub-committee Meetings: (1) Cambridge, (1) Carlisle, (1) London, (1) Lytham, (3) Manchester, (1) Newcastle, (1) Preston

Deputations, &c.: Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Gloucester, Lancaster, Leicester, Leeds, London, Manchester, Newcastle, and N.U.T. Conference.

Tutorial Class Committees: Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, and Wigan.

Classes: Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Wooldale, and Wigan.

Managers' Examination Board: Leeds, Manchester, and York.

Secretaries' Examination Board: Leeds.

Ruskin College Meetings: Leicester and London.

Women's Class Teachers: Lancaster.

Co-operative Employment Committee: (1) London.

Summer Schools, &c.: Birkenhead, Bridge of Allan, London, Malvern, and Sea Mill.

	£	s.	d.	
To Donation on account of Secretaries' Lectures	8	0	0	
„ Fees—Management Centres	9	6	0	
„ „ Correspondence	6	10	6	
„ „ Secretaries' Course	19	19	6	
„ „ Co-operative Bookkeeping Class	47	6	6	
„ „ Elocution Class	1	5	0	
„ „ Co-operative Auditing Course	8	8	0	
„ „ Co-operation Class	10	15	0	
„ „ Industrial History Class	3	0	0	
„ „ Economics, &c.	9	0	0	
„ „ Female Grocery Assistants' Class	22	5	0	
„ „ Raw Materials Class	1	0	0	
„ „ Entrance Fees and Badges—Fellowship	1	9	0	
„ „ „ Individual Examination	9	13	6	
„ Sale of Slides, &c.	3	6	2	
	161	4	2	
 To Summer School Receipts	419	12	7	
 To Men's Guild Subscriptions	£74	8	9	
„ Sale of Rules, Badges, &c.	5	3	10	
	79	12	7	

Six Central Council Meetings: Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bristol, Lytham, Manchester, and Newcastle.

Deputation: Glasgow.

Carried forward 29983 10 3

CASH ACCOUNT.

787

	£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Brought forward	10	11	6	27	9	8
By EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE—	£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Travelling	201	18	4			
Expenses	116	17	9			
„ TUTORIAL CLASS COMMITTEE—				318	16	1
Travelling	2	12	5			
Expenses	1	10	0			
„ STUDENTS' FELLOWSHIP—				4	2	5
General Printing				3	8	6
„ CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE—						
Travelling	12	4	2			
Expenses	7	5	0			
„ SUMMER SCHOOLS—				19	9	2
Food and Carriage	195	4	0			
Rent	70	0	0			
Other Expenses	39	5	0			
General Printing and Advertising	33	10	5			
Wages, Lectures, and Travelling	63	4	3			
Returned Fees	1	15	0			
Expenses of London School	75	11	6			
„ Scottish School	10	17	8			
				489	7	10
„ Salaries and Wages	683	16	2			
„ War Bonus	39	7	5			
„ National Health Insurance	0	14	6			
				723	18	1
„ Grants to Classes	41	10	0			
„ „ for Prizes	9	5	6			
„ Prizes for Summer School	17	10	0			
„ „ Junior and Intermediate Exams. ..	59	8	6			
„ „ Essay Competitions	5	0	0			
„ Secretaries' Course	0	10	6			
„ Medal: Management Class	1	15	0			
				134	19	0
„ EXAMINATION EXPENSES—						
Bookkeeping and Auditing	21	1	0			
Management	8	0	3			
				29	1	3
„ TEACHERS' FEES AND EXPENSES—						
Bookkeeping—Correspondence Classes ..	65	5	0			
Female Shop Assistants' Classes—						
Manchester	37	2	11			
Newcastle	6	0	0			
Teachers' Expenses attending Summer						
Schools	30	11	9			
Assistance in Studies	10	0	0			
Auditing	14	7	0			
Bookkeeping Class (Manchester)	19	0	5			
Elocution	11	5	0			
Women's Guild Guide Classes	175	5	6			
Salesmen and Management Classes	85	6	4			
„ Lectures for Secretaries	28	5	4			
„ Publications	37	5	9			
„ Advertising	65	1	4			
„ Carriage	0	11	9			
„ Telegrams	0	14	8			
„ Easter Week-end—Birkenhead	46	5	0			
„ Subscriptions	4	4	0			
„ Slides, &c.	33	2	7			
„ General Printing	256	16	6			
„ Returned Fees	0	10	6			
				927	1	4
„ MEN'S GUILD—				2650	3	8
Travelling	76	4	6			
Expenses	29	11	8			
Grant to Districts	1	1	0			
Postage and Carriage	5	7	1			
Reporting	2	10	9			
General Printing	16	17	6			
				131	12	6
Carried forward	12	900	7	8	27	998
				16		9

CASH ACCOUNT.

789

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	12900	7	8	27908	16	4

By JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE—

	£	s.	d.
Travelling	142	7	3
Expenses	64	10	0
Secretary's Salary	130	0	0
Office Assistance	39	8	4
Secretary's Expenses—London	18	2	6
Provincial Towns	51	3	0
Parliamentary Bills, Papers, &c.	11	1	6
Postage, Carriage, Telegrams, &c.	30	5	4
Sundries	1	13	0
Subscriptions	10	10	0
General Printing	60	9	6
Office Furniture	30	6	2
Cash on account	50	0	0

639 16 7

„ JOINT PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE—

	£	s.	d.
Travelling	16	8	6
Expenses	12	10	0
Agent's Expenses—Propaganda	73	1	10
Salary	156	0	0
War Bonus	14	19	0
Insurance	0	13	0
Special Propaganda	125	18	4

399 10 8

£13939 14 11

13939 14 11

Carried forward	41938	11	8
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IRISH

	General.		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	30449	19	7
To Subscriptions	116	18	5
„ Audit Fees received	138	4	6
„ Cash in hand	10	0	0

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

(6) Belfast, (1) Dublin, (1) Dundalk, (1) Portadown.

CONFERENCES—

Belfast, Enniskillen, and Queenstown.

Deputations to Societies, &c.: Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Castle Caulfield, Cork, Dublin, Dungannon, Inchicore, Keady, Larne, Lisburn, and Newtownards.

Amalgamations, &c.: Ballymena and Castle Caulfield.

Summer School Meetings: Belfast and Portrush.

Carried forward 30715 2 6

EXECUTIVE.

				General.	
				£	s. d.
Brought forward				41938	11 8
By EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—				£	s. d.
Travelling				18	4 11
Expenses				8	17 6
					27 2 5
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—					
Travelling				18	8 0
Expenses				11	5 0
					29 13 0
„ SECRETARY AND PROPAGANDIST—					
Propaganda				121	6 6
Salary				175	0 0
War Bonus				15	0 0
					311 6 6
„ Grant to Women's Co-operative Guild				30	0 0
Total Expenditure					398 1 11
„ Cash in hand					10 0 0
Carried forward				42346	13 7

MIDLAND

	General.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	30715	2	6	
To Subscriptions	2226	14	0	
.. Cash in hand	3	17	0	

BOARD MEETINGS—

- (1) Birmingham, (2) Derby, (1) Leicester, (2) Northampton, (1) Nottingham, (1) Skegness, (1) Stinchley, (1) Stratford-on-Avon, (1) Walsall, (1) Wolverhampton, and (1) Worcester.

CONFERENCES, &C.—

Aberystwith, Alcester, Barwell, Basford, Birmingham, Boston, Burton Latimer, Burton-on-Trent, Coventry, Cresswell, Derby, Dudley, Gainsboro', Grantham, Grimsby, Harpole, Higham Ferrers, Huncote, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Leicester, Lincoln, Lockhurst Lane, Mansfield, Moulton, Newark, Nottingham, Nuneaton, Oakengates, Peterboro', Rugeley, Rushden, Shrewsbury, Smethwick, Stourport, Walsall, Wellnigboro', and Worcester.

Public Meetings, Festivals, &c.: Aberystwith, Awwsworth, Belper, Birmingham, Blidworth, Brigstock, Bulwell, Castle Donnington, Cheadle, Chirk, Chilwell, Corby, Cottingham, Craven Arms, Dawley, Derby, East Leake, Eastwood, Ellesmere, Farnsfield, Gainsboro', Gosberton, Grantham, Great Bridge, Gretton, Hinckley, Holloway, Kettering, Kidderminster, Kirkby Mallam, Langley Mill, Lea, Leicester, Long Eaton, Lower Gornal, Malpas, Mansfield, Market Harboro', Netherfield, Nottingham, Over, Peckleton, Pontesbury, Prees, Radcliffe, Rainsworth, Rugby, St. Martins, Shrewsbury, Selston, Southwell, Spalding, Stechford, Sutton-on-Trent, Underwood, Vron, Weldon, Wellnigboro', Welshpool, West Bromwich, and Worcester.

Propaganda Meetings: Aberystwith, Brassington, Brearton, Clee Hill, Draycott, Great and Little Addington, Great and Little Oakley, Grafton and Geddington, Gotham, Leicester, Loddington and Broughton, Madeley, Odenbury and Isham, Radcliffe, Rushton and Thorpe, St. Martins, Shardlow, Tywell and Woodford, Whitchurch, Woodside, and Dudley.

Amalgamations and Boundaries: Boston, Cheadle, Daventry, Doncaster, Lockhurst Lane, Mansfield, Naptou, Rugby, Scunthorpe, Spalding, and Wednesday.

Deputations: Leek, Mansfield, Mount Sorrel, Skegness, Southwell, and Stratford-on-Avon.

Examinations and Classes: Birmingham, Derby, Eastwood, Leicester, Oakengates, Walsall, and Worcester.

Hours and Wages Boards: Birmingham, Leicester, and Shrewsbury.

Men's Guild Conference: Derby.

Trades Union Congress: Birmingham.

Choral Meetings: Ilkeston.

Educational Association: Coalville and Leicester.

Carried forward 32945 13 6

SECTION.

						General.
						£ s. d.
	Brought forward					42346 18 7
By	SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—	£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
	Travelling	85	0	1		
	Expenses	21	10	0		
					106	10 1
„	CONFERENCES, &c.—					
	Travelling	168	18	3		
	Expenses	86	17	6		
					255	15 9
„	DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—					
	Northampton and Earls Barton	13	11	4		
	Wellingborough and Kettering	17	18	0		
	Leicester	9	8	4		
	Coventry	12	18	0		
	Birmingham	14	12	3		
	Stafford	30	2	7		
	Derby	14	12	1		
	Nottingham	17	15	7		
	Lincoln	32	0	4		
	Shropshire and Mid-Wales	50	3	0		
					213	1 6
„	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—					
	General Printing	17	15	1		
	Postages and Telegrams	18	9	6		
	Hire of Rooms	0	10	0		
	Secretary's Honorarium	15	0	0		
	Treasurer's „	6	0	0		
					57	14 7
	Total Expenditure				633	1 11
„	Cash in hand				14	15 2

Carried forward..... 42094 10 8

NORTHERN

	General.
	£ s. d.
Brought forward	32945 13 6
To Subscriptions	1967 15 4
„ Cash in hand	23 3 6

SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—

(1) Middlesbro', (12) Newcastle.

OFFICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS—

(15) Newcastle.

CONFERENCES, &c.—Annfield Plain, Alston, Bedlington, Blyth, Darlington, Guisboro', Haltwhistle, Hartlepoons, Loftus, Middlesbro', Newcastle, New Marske, Stanhope, Stockton, Sunderland, Swalwell, Willington Quay, and Workington.

Deputations: Alnwick, Alston, Ashington, Bedlington, Blyth, Chester-le-Street, Consett, Durham, Gateshead, Jarrow, Loftus, Newcastle, Prudhoe-on-Tyne, Station Town, Stockton, and Tow Law.

Federation Meetings: Amble, Ashington, Blyth, Carlisle and Gretna, Felton, Glasgow, Hexham, New Delaval, West Wylam, and Prudhoe.

Members' Meetings: Bedlington, Framwellgate Moor, Otterburn, and Station Town.

Propaganda Meetings: Plachetts and Sunderland.

Educational Conference: Boldon.

Hours and Wages, &c., Meetings: Consett, Durham, East Winning, Newcastle, Stockton, and West Stanley.

Agricultural Organisation Meetings: York.

Carried forward 34936 12 4

SECTION.

					General. £ s. d.
	Brought forward				42994 10 8
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—		£	s.	d.	£ s. d.
Travelling	.....	18	16	7	
Expenses	.....	9	7	6	
					28 4 1
„ OFFICE COMMITTEE—					
Travelling	.....	11	0	0	
Expenses	.....	6	12	6	
					17 12 6
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—					
Travelling	.....	42	18	5	
Expenses	.....	25	14	4	
					68 12 9
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—					
Travelling	.....	3	12	10	
Expenses	.....	6	0	0	
General	.....	0	10	3	
					10 3 1
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—					
North Northumberland	.....	12	2	10	
South Northumberland	.....	8	19	1	
Cumberland and Westmorland	.....	24	9	3	
West Durham and South Northumberland	.....	21	11	9	
East Durham	.....	13	9	9	
South Durham	.....	15	5	9	
South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire	.....	23	17	9	
					119 16 2
„ Salaries and Wages	.....	248	10	8	
„ War Bonus	.....	19	5	6	
„ National Health Insurance	.....	0	12	6	
					268 8 8
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—					
General Printing	.....	36	17	5	
Postages	.....	21	19	2	
Cleaning	.....	8	16	9	
Rent	.....	25	0	0	
Coal, Gas, &c.	.....	8	19	6	
Telephone Rent and Charges	.....	12	14	7	
Telegrams	.....	2	6	8	
Insurance	.....	0	2	9	
Sundries	.....	0	19	1	
Advertising	.....	0	9	6	
					118 5 5
Total Expenditure	.....				631 2 8
Cash in hand	.....				23 11 4
Carried forward	.....				43649 4 8

NORTH-WESTERN

	General.		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	34936	12	4
To Subscriptions	7048	15	6
„ Cash in hand, 1st January, 1916	26	11	6
„ Bank Interest and Dividend	0	16	3
„ Cash due to Secretary, 31st December, 1916	6	7	2

BOARD MEETINGS HELD—

(1) Birkenhead, (1) Lytham, (10) Manchester.

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Accrington, Backbarrow, Bacup, Bamber Bridge, Barrow, Battye-ford, Batley, Blackpool, Blackburn, Blaenau Festiniog, Bolton, Bradford, Burley, Burslem, Bury, Carnforth, Colne, Clitheroe, Crawshawbooth, Crewe, Crompton, Dalton, Dewsbury, Delph, Diggle, Doncaster, Edgworth, Escrick, Fallsworth, Farnworth, Golcar, Hasland, Haslingden, Hawarden, Haworth, Hebden Bridge, Hillhouse, Hindley, Huddersfield, Hull, Hyde, Kendal, Keighley, Killamarsh, Leeds, Littleboro', Liverpool, Macclesfield, Malton, Manchester, Marple, Morley, Nelson, New Hey, Oldham, Paddock, Park Lane, Pendleton, Platt Bridge, Pocklington, Preston, Prestwich, Queensbury, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Rishton, Rochdale, Royton, Sandbach, Scarborough, Selby, Sheffield, Skipton, Silverdale, Southport, Sowerby Bridge, Stacksteads, Stockport, Summerseat, Tottington, Tunstead, Ulverston, Walkden, Walsden, Warrington, West-houghton, Wetherby, Whitewell Bottom, Worksop, Wrexham, and York.

Amalgamations and Boundaries: Barnoldswick, Bolton, Bradford, Bryn Gate, Chesterfield, Clitheroe, Doncaster, Eagley, Earby, Edenfield, Hasland, Leek, Low Moor, Manchester, Park Lane, Ramsbottom, Salterforth, Scunthorpe, Stacksteads, Tunstead, and Turn.

Sectional Propaganda Committee: Accrington, Bradford, Manchester, and Stacksteads.

Educational Conferences, &c.: Lytham and Manchester.

Examinations and Classes: Chesterfield, Doncaster, Leeds, and Nelson.

Choirs Sub-committee: Bolton, Bradford, Halifax, and Manchester.

Deputations to Societies, &c.: Blaenau Festiniog, Cefn, Chaigley, Manchester, Pontefract, Preston, Rawtenstall, and Thongs-bridge.

Congress Reception Committees: Lancaster.

Conciliation Boards: Keighley, Leeds, Masbro', Manchester, Rother-ham, and Wakefield.

Hours and Wages Boards: Batley, Bingley, Bradford, Burslem, Cawl Terrace, Crewe, Dalton, Dewsbury, Fleetwood, Has-lingden, Hazel Grove, Heywood, Huddersfield, Macclesfield, Manchester, Oldham, Pendleton, Pontefract, Poynton, Preston, Rawtenstall, Sheffield, Stockport, Waterfoot, Whitewell Bottom, Winsford, and Winnington.

Carried forward 42019 2 9

SECTION.

				General.	
				£	s. d.
Brought forward				43649	4 8
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS--	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Travelling	95	14 0			
Expenses	30	18 0	126	12 0	
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—					
Travelling	154	7 10			
Expenses	89	19 9	244	7 7	
„ HOURS AND WAGES BOARDS—					
Travelling	11	7 6			
Expenses	18	17 0			
Printing, &c.....	1	12 7	31	17 1	
„ DEMONSTRATION AND CHOIRS COMMITTEE—					
Travelling	7	5 4			
Expenses	2	19 6	10	4 10	
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—					
Travelling	11	8 5			
Expenses	19	15 8	31	4 1	
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—					
Alredale	16	5 5			
Bolton	12	10 6			
Calderdale	11	3 6			
Cheshire and North Wales	46	14 8			
Dewsbury	25	1 0			
East Yorkshire	31	19 6			
Huddersfield	13	13 6			
Macclesfield, Crewe, and District	23	18 9			
Manchester	18	12 4			
North Lancashire	35	5 1			
North Lonsdale	30	13 4			
Oldham	15	16 8			
Rochdale	9	8 8			
Rossendale	18	17 7			
South Yorkshire	26	12 0	336	12 6	
„ Salaries	251	13 8			
„ War Bonus	17	16 3			
„ Insurance	0	9 0	269	18 11	
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—					
General Printing	179	8 6			
Postages and Telegrams	52	14 1			
Sundries	5	17 5			
Hire of Rooms	0	12 6			
Bank Charges	1	18 4			
Typewriter	20	19 0			
Advertising	3	6 0	264	15 10	
Total Expenditure				1315	12 10

Carried forward 44964 17 6

SCOTTISH

		General.		
		£	s.	d.
Brought forward		42019	2	9
To Subscriptions		2490	0	10
„ Cash in hand		31	15	1
„ Sales		0	3	1
„ Rents		21	12	0
„ Interest		0	9	3

BOARD MEETINGS HELD—

(1) Bridge of Allan, (12) Glasgow.

Twenty-six Executive Meetings—Glasgow.

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS—

Bridge of Allan, Broxburn, Camelon, Carlisle, Coatbridge, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Hamilton, Johnstone, Kilmarnock, Leith, Milngavie, Motherwell, and Paisley.

CONFERENCES, &C.—

Alexandria, Alva, Arbroath, Ayr, Bannockburn, Barrhead, Boness, Broxburn, Cambuslang, Carronshore, Clackmannan, Clydebank, Coalsnaughton, Crieff, Dregborn, Dundee, Dunfermline, East Wemyss, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Greenock, Hamilton, Innerleithen, Kelty, Kilbarchan, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Larark, Mauchline, Maybole, Motherwell, Musselburgh, Newmilns, Newtown Grange, Nitshill, Paisley, Peebles, Redding, Selkirk, Springburn, and Stevenston.

Propaganda Meetings : Anniesland, Cambuslang, Clydebank, Dunfermline, Gilbertfield, Glasgow, and Newton.

Deputations and Public Meetings : Clydebank, Galashiels, Glasgow Govan, Greenock, and Motherwell.

S.C.W.S. Meetings : Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Women's Guild Conference : Camelon.

Hours and Wages and Conciliation Board Meetings : Glasgow.

Carried forward 44563 3 0

SECTION.

		General.	
		£	s. d.
Brought forward		44964	17 6
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—		£	s. d.
Travelling	45 19 2		
Expenses	13 5 0	59	4 2
.. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—			
Travelling	35 10 8		
Expenses	19 0 0	54	10 8
.. CONFERENCES, &C.—			
Travelling	60 7 9		
Expenses	45 14 6	106	2 3
.. EDUCATION COMMITTEE—			
Travelling	10 8 10		
Expenses	16 17 6	27	6 4
.. CONCILIATION BOARDS—			
Travelling	1 18 2		
Expenses	0 10 0	2	8 2
Salaries and Wages	409 9 4		
War Bonus	30 13 1		
National Health Insurance	1 6 0	441	8 5
.. DISTRICT ASSOCIATION GRANTS—			
Ayrshire	3 0 0		
Border Counties	3 0 0		
Central	3 0 0		
East of Scotland	3 0 0		
Falkirk	3 0 0		
Fife and Kinross	3 0 0		
Glasgow and Suburbs	3 0 0		
Perth, Forfar, and Aberdeen	3 0 0		
Renfrewshire	3 0 0		
Stirling, West of Fife and Clackmannan	3 0 0	30	0 0
.. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—			
General Printing	69 16 0		
Postages	32 3 1		
Carriage	1 16 5		
Sundries	1 3 6		
Telegrams and Address	1 17 1		
Telephone Rent and Charges	8 19 9		
Cleaning and Caretakers	49 13 2		
Gas, Coal, and Electricity	16 10 6		
Rent of Office	49 0 0		
Rates and Taxes	14 10 2		
Advertising	0 13 0		
Railway Contract	12 9 0		
Bank Charges	1 5 0		
Treasurer's Honorarium	5 0 0		
Hire of Halls	3 12 6		
Legal Advice	64 14 4		
Propaganda	200 0 0		
Grant to Women's Guild	150 0 0	683	3 6
Total Expenditure		1404	3 6
.. Cash in hand		28	10 2
Carried forward		46397	11 2

SOUTHERN

	General		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	44563	3	0
To Subscriptions	2287	10	2
„ Cash due to Secretary, 31st December, 1916	49	15	9

BOARD MEETINGS HELD—

(1) Ipswich, (14) London.

Twelve Executive Meetings—London.

Educational Meetings—London.

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Addlestone, Bedford, Bentley, Bletchley, Bournemouth, Brighton, Cambridge, Calne, Chipping Norton, Colchester, Devizes, Eastbourne, Eastleigh, Ely, Epping, Farnham, Fulham, Gillingham, Godalming, Grays, Hemel, Hempstead, Letchworth, London, Maldon, Newhaven, Norwich, Oxford, Petersfield, Reading, Saffron Walden, Salisbury, Sawston, Shanklin, Sittingbourne, Slough, Stony Stratford, Swindon, Tring, Trowbridge, West London, Wilton, Winchester, Woking, Worthing, Wymondham, and Yarmouth.

Deputations to Societies, &c.: Addlestone, Aldershot, Alton, Ashford, Basingstoke, Bishop's Stortford, Bournemouth, Bramshaw, Brighton, Bromley, Chesham, Childe, Okeford, Cliffe, Crawley, Croydon, Dartford, Epping, Epsom, Farnham, Fleet, Gravesend, Hampstead, Haslemere, Hastings, Hemel Hempstead, High Wycombe, Horley, Leatherhead, Lowestoft, Maidstone, Newhaven, Newport Pagnell, Olney, Portsea Island, Reigate, Ringwood, St. Albans, Slough, Southampton, Tonbridge, Watford, West London, Wilton, Winchester, Yarmouth, and Yiewsley.

Public Meetings and Festivals: Addlestone, Andover, Ashford, Basildon, Basingstoke, Bishopsgate, Bishop's Stortford, Blandford, Brighton, Bromley, Calne, Chatham, Colchester, Cliffe-at-Hoo, Dagenham, Downham, Eastbourne, Edmonton, Epping, Fordingbridge, Gillingham, Grays, Haddenham, Harringay, Hastings, High Wycombe, Horley Hoxton, Hunstanton, Ipswich, Leighton Buzzard, Leatherhead, London, Lyme Regis, Maidstone, Maldenhead, Newport Pagnell, Norwood, Palmers Green, Penge, Portsmouth, Redhill, Ringwood, Shanklin, Southampton, Swaffham, Swanage, Swanscombe, Tunbridge Wells, Wealdstone, Wickham Market, Windsor, and Wolverton.

Examinations and Classes: Abbeywood, Bromley, Cambridge, Colchester, Edmonton, Guildford, Hemel Hempstead, London, Lowestoft, St. Albans, and Walworth.

Amalgamations and Boundaries: Alton, Fleet, High Wycombe, Leatherhead, Luton, St. Albans, Tring, Slough, Watford, and Wealdstone.

Choral Association Meetings: London.*Women's Guild Meetings:* London.*Summer School Meetings:* Bournemouth and London.*War Emergency Committee:* London.

Carried forward 46900 8 11

SECTION.

					General.
					£ s. d.
	Brought forward				46397 11 2
By	SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
	Travelling	61	1 6		
	Expenses	15	0 0		
				76	1 6
..	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—				
	Travelling	24	14 6		
	Expenses	6	2 6		
				30	17 0
..	CONFERENCES, &c.—				
	Travelling	212	13 7		
	Expenses	109	15 5		
				322	9 0
..	DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—				
	North Metropolitan	15	5 10		
	South Metropolitan	14	11 7		
	Kent	0	13 0		
	Sussex	24	9 7		
	Hants	37	11 1		
	Wilts. and Dorset	33	13 1		
	Oxford	14	4 8		
	Cambridge	20	16 2		
	Norfolk	15	9 8		
	Essex and Suffolk	16	5 5		
	Beds. and Bucks	31	8 1		
				224	8 2
..	Salaries and Wages	298	5 4		
..	War Bonus	28	6 10		
..	National Health Insurance	0	13 0		
				322	5 2
..	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—				
	General Printing	87	7 10		
	Postages	46	18 11		
	Carriage	0	13 6		
	Telegrams	5	3 11		
	Sundries and Repairs	5	12 10		
	Office Rent	40	0 0		
	Telephone Rent and Charges	7	11 8		
	Publications	4	1 1		
	Assistance	6	9 1		
	Conference Paper Reader	2	2 0		
	Special Propaganda—Leighton Buzzard	4	17 6		
				210	18 4
	Total Expenditure				1186 19 2
..	Cash due to Secretary, 1st January, 1916				6 7 7.
	Carried forward				47590 17 11.

SOUTH-WESTERN

	General.
	£ s. d.
Brought forward	46900 3 11
To Subscriptions	709 13 9
„ Cash in hand	19 1 6

BOARD MEETINGS HELD—

(1) Barnstaple, (1) Bristol, (1) Cullompton, (4) Exeter, (1) Falmouth, (1) Liskeard, (1) Lostwithiel, (1) Manchester, (1) Newton Abbot, (3) Plymouth, (1) Radstock, (1) St. Austell, (1) Saltash.

Conferences and Executive Meetings: Barnstaple, Bridgwater, Bristol, Bruton, Dartmouth, Exeter, London, Moretonhamstead, Shepton Mallet, Radstock, Taunton, Tavistock, Torquay, and Truro.

Deputations to Societies and Members' Meetings: Barnstaple, Bodmin, Devonport, Exmouth, Honiton, Ilfracombe, Liskeard, Lostwithiel, Paignton, Penzance, Plymouth, St. Austell, St. Blazey, Tavistock, Templecombe, Torquay, Shaldon, and Weston-super-Mare.

Public Meetings, &c.: Bovey Tracey, Barnstaple, Bridgwater, Bristol, Bugle, Camborne, Chudleigh, Clevedon, Dobwell, Frome, Galmpton, Liverton, Looe, Lostwithiel, Minehead, Okehampton, Otterton, Portishead, Radstock, Teignmouth, Totnes, Twerton-on-Avon, and Weston-super-Mare.

Educational Meetings: Paignton and Penzance.

Women's Guild Conferences: Bristol, Kingswood, and Plymouth

Carried forward 47629 4 2

SECTION.

		General.	
		£	s. d.
Brought forward		47590	17 11
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
Travelling	66 8 2		
Expenses	20 12 6		
		87	0 8
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—			
Travelling	52 12 9		
Expenses	21 17 6		
		74	10 3
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—			
Cornwall	35 16 7		
Somerset	28 18 6		
Devon	40 10 5		
		105	5 6
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—			
General Printing	9 15 8		
Postages	4 3 7		
Honorariums—Secretary	15 15 0		
„ Treasurer	3 3 0		
Hire of Room	1 2 6		
Special Propaganda—St. Austell	1 18 8		
		35	18 5
Total Expenditure		302	14 10
Cash in hand		29	13 11

Carried forward 47923 6 8

WESTERN

	General.		
	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	47629	4	2
To Subscriptions	585	2	1
Cash in hand 1st January, 1916	11	11	10

BOARD MEETINGS HELD—

(11) Cardiff, (1) Troedyrhiw.

CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS—

Ammanford, Caerau and Maesteg, Cardiff, Cinderford, Cwmavon, Cymmer, Dowlais, Gloucester, Nantymoel, Newport, Ponderdawe, Pontypridd, and Swansea.

Deputations to Societies: Aberavon, Bedlinog, Blaendulais, Briton Ferry, Cardiff, Mid-Rhondda, Newport, Pontycymmer, Porthcawl, Skewen, Swansea, and Treorchy.

Public Meetings, Festivals, &c.: Abercwmboi, Blakenery, Blaendulais, Brynaman, Brynmawr, Cardiff, Carmarthen, Cheltenham, Dowlais, Ebbw Vale, Garndiffaith, Gilfach, Gorslas, Hereford, Kidwelly, Neath, Newport, Penygraig, Pontypridd, Porthcawl, Resolven, Skewen, South Cerney, Swansea, Talbach, and Tonyrefail.

Amalgamation Meeting: Newport.

Classes and Educational Meetings: Aberaman, Aberdare, Blaenau Gwent, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Ebbw Vale, Forestfach, Gloucester, Pontypridd, and Ton.

Convalescent Fund Meetings: Cardiff.

Women's Guild Conference: Barry.

Hours and Wages Board Meetings: Bridgend and Cardiff.

Congress Reception Committee Meetings: Cardiff and Swansea.

SECTION.

					General.
					£ s. d.
Brought forward				47	928 6 8
By SECTIONAL BOARD MEETINGS—	£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
Travelling	32	16	11		
Expenses	10	7	6	43	4 5
„ CONFERENCES, &c.—					
Travelling	65	19	3		
Expenses	27	15	0	93	14 3
„ CONCILIATION BOARDS—					
Travelling	6	13	7		
Expenses	6	10	0		
General	0	4	6	13	8 1
„ HOURS AND WAGES BOARD—					
Travelling	7	14	5		
Expenses	3	10	0	11	4 5
„ DISTRICT ASSOCIATION EXPENSES—					
Brecon (Mon.) and East Glamorgan	21	8	1		
West Wales	35	11	6		
Gloucester and Hereford	17	2	5		
Mid-Glamorgan	19	4	4	93	6 4
„ MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES—					
General Printing	11	15	5		
Postage	2	17	7		
Hire of Rooms	2	0	0		
Honorarium—Secretary	15	0	0		
„ Treasurer	3	3	0		
Special Propaganda—Kidwelly	12	12	3	47	8 3
Total Expenditure				302	5 9
Cash in hand				0	5 8

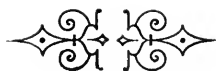
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash balances in hand—Irish Executive	10	0	0			
" " " Midland Section	3	17	0			
" " " Northern Section	23	3	6			
" " " North-Western Section	26	11	6			
" " " Scottish Section	31	15	1			
" " " South-Western Section	19	1	6			
" " " Western Section	11	11	10			
" " " Central Office	16	17	0			
				142	17	5
„ Subscriptions—Ireland	1	5	0			
„ „ Midland Section	0	10	0			
„ „ Northern Section	0	10	0			
„ „ North-Western Section	1	15	0			
„ „ Scottish Section	0	15	0			
„ „ Southern Section						
„ „ South-Western Section	0	5	0			
„ „ Western Section	0	15	0			
	£5	15	0	£17426	15	1
„ Sale of Publications				17432	10	1
„ Audit Fees—Ireland				2523	8	11
„ Advertising				138	4	6
„ Trade Dividends and Interest				46	10	0
„ Hire of Rooms				64	17	8
„ Expenses refunded				105	2	10
„ Educational Receipts				9	1	5
„ Men's Guild Receipts				580	16	9
„ Joint Parliamentary Committee Expenses repaid				79	12	7
„ Joint Propaganda Committee Expenses repaid				290	6	6
„ Congress Fund—Advertising				176	2	10
„ North-Western Section—Bank Interest and Dividend				59	15	0
				0	16	3
„ Scottish Section—Interest						
„ „ Sales				£	s.	d.
„ „ Rents				0	9	3
				0	3	1
				21	12	0
„ Cash due to Southern Section				22	4	4
„ North-Western Secretary				49	15	9
„ Various Funds, as per Cash Account				6	7	2
„ Bank Withdrawals				2112	8	8
				24384	19	5
				£48225	18	1

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE:

	Totals.	United Board and Central Office.	Educational Committee.	Joint Parliamentary Committee.	Joint Propaganda Committee.	Irish Executive.	Midland Section.	Northern Section.	North-Western Section.	Scottish Section.	Southern Section.	South-Western Section.
Meetings—Travelling Expenses	£ s. d. 9638 16 0 1827 18 8	£ s. d. 1018 18 10 824 16 6	£ s. d. 216 14 11 125 12 9	£ s. d. 142 7 3 64 10 0	£ s. d. 16 8 6 12 10 0	£ s. d. 36 12 11 20 2 6	£ s. d. 253 18 4 108 7 6	£ s. d. 72 15 0 41 14 4	£ s. d. 257 7 3 123 17 3	£ s. d. 2152 6 5 94 17 0	£ s. d. 5298 9 7 0 130 17 11	£ s. d. 7 119 0 11 42 10 0 38 2 6
Salaries, Wages, Bonus, and National Health Insurance.	4759 10 6	2140 2 11	793 18 1	169 8 4	170 19 0	190 0 0	21 0 0	268 8 8	269 18 11	446 8 5	592 5 2	18 18 0 18 3 0
General Printing Publications—Printed and purchased.	1935 1 7	1261 11 2	260 5 0	60 9 6	....	....	17 15 1	36 17 5	179 8 6	69 16 0	87 7 10	9 15 8 11 15 5
Rents, Rates, Taxes, and Insurance.	2258 13 10	2217 7 0	37 5 9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4 1 1	....
District Association Expenses.	572 9 2	443 19 0	....	....	....	....	213 1 6	119 16 2	336 12 6	30 0 0	224 8 2	2105 5 6 93 6 4
Congratulatory and Hours and Wages Board Expenses	529 9 1	129 4 2	....	....	....	....	....	10 3 1	63 1 2	2 8 2	....	24 12 6
Grants to Other Bodies	390 4 0	206 0 0	4 4 0	....	....	30 0 0	....	....	....	150 0 0	....	....
Summer Schools	489 7 10	....	489 7 10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Men's Guild	131 12 6	131 12 6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous Expenses	3165 17 9	1189 5 1	792 15 4	203 1 6	199 13 2	121 6 6	18 19 6	6 6 8	85 7 4	4394 17 4	79 9 5	7 4 9 17 9 10
Congress Expenses	687 6 10	687 6 10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals.	20113 17 6	10118 11 6	3781 16 2	639 16 7	399 10 8	398 1 11	633 1 11	631 2 8	1315 12 10	1404 3 6	1186 19 2	302 14 10 302 5 9
Other Funds paid over Cash Balances Due to Sections,	1362 1 4	1362 1 4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1st January, 1916	6 7 7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6 7 7	....
Cash Balances in Hand, 31st December, 1916	121 6 1	14 9 10	....	....	....	10 0 0	14 15 2	23 11 4	....	28 10 2	....	29 13 11 0 5 8
C.W.S. Loan Investment	3000 0 0	3000 0 0	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bank Deposits	23622 5 7	23622 5 7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	48225 18 1	38117 8 3	3781 16 2	639 16 7	399 10 8	408 1 11	647 17 1	654 14 0	1315 12 10	1492 15 8	1193 6 9	8392 8 9 302 11 5

DR.	BANKING ACCOUNT.		CR.
1st January, 1916 :— £ s. d. To Balance 12512 12 7 31st December, 1916 :— „ Deposits 23622 5 7 „ Dividend 112 13 1 „ Interest 312 17 8	31st December, 1916 :— £ s. d. By Withdrawals 24384 19 5 „ Commi sion 17 16 4 „ Bala ce— £ s. d. Union Fund .. 4613 12 9 Belgian Fund.. 3577 8 8 Belgian & French Societies Fund 2651 15 9 Anglo - Russian Hospital Fund 1314 7 0 Prince of Wales Fund 0 9 0	£36560 8 11	12157 13 2 £36560 8 11



BALANCE SHEET.

809

BALANCE SHEET.

Cr.

Dr.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
Share Capital, as per last Report	329	5	0				Stock-in-Trade—Estimated			1002 0 0
" " received since	5	15	0				INVESTMENTS:—			
							Shares—Co-op. Wholesale Society, as per last report.....			1200 0 0
Less amount extinguished.....	335	0	0				Loans—Co-op. Wholesale Soc., as per last report.....			2783 10 10
Expenses.....	202	5	6				" Share and Loan Interest, and Trade			
Printing Publications.....	253	15	6				Dividend, 1916	223	9	10
				328	5	0	Special Deposit.....	3000	0	0
Cash owing to "Neale" Scholarship Fund				456	1	0	Interest	135	5	8
" " "Hughes"				95	8	3	Shares—Scottish Wholesale Soc., as per last report	788	13	8
" " "University Scholars' Maintenance Fund				203	3	0	Interest and Dividend, 1916	46	9	6
" " "Blandford" Memorial Fund				29	1	0	Shares—Co-operative Printing Society			885 3 2
Loan on Women's Co-operative Guild				61	13	2	Shares and Loans—Kinning Park Co-op.			50 0 0
Cash due to Belgian Distress Fund				300	0	0	Society, as per last report.....	224	14	5
" " Belgian and French Societies' Fund				8577	8	8	Interest and Dividend, 1916	0	16	11
" " Prince of Wales Fund				2651	15	9	Shares—Co-operative Newspaper Society			25 11 4
" " Anglo-Russian Hospital Fund				0	9	0	Share and Loan Interest, 1915 and 1916			50 0 0
" " North-Western Section				1314	7	0	Shares—Manchester and Salford Co-op. Society,			4 15 9
" " Southern Sectional Secretary				6	7	2	as per last report.....	45	9	5
Balance				49	15	9	Interest, 1916.....	0	3	5
				12869	16	6	Accounts owing for Pamphlets, Rules, &c.			5 12 10
							Cash in Co-operative Wholesale Society's Bank—			162 17 7
							Union's Account	446	8	12 9
							Belgian Distress Fund	3577	8	8
							Belgian and French Societies' Fund	2651	15	9
							Anglo-Russian Hospital Fund	1314	7	0
							Prince of Wales Fund	0	9	0
							Cash in hand as per Cash Account.....	12157	13	2
							" hands of District Secretaries—North-Western Section	121	6	1
								96	0	0
										£21943 6 3

I have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Co-operative Union for the financial year ended 31st December, 1916, and compared all counterfoils of acknowledgments for cash received, and vouchers for all payments made, and hereby certify the above statement of accounts as correct.

Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

T. WOOD,

PUBLIC AUDITOR.

HOLYOAKE MEMORIAL.*Statement of Accounts of the New Building Fund up to 31st December, 1916.***CASH ACCOUNT.**

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		
To Subscriptions	258	07	8	6	By Land and Buildings	223	62	7	10
„ Transfer (Owen Memorial Fund)	90	13	8		„ Furniture and Fittings	1088	3	5	
„ Sewering Expense, repaid	32	0	0		„ Chief Rents	29	8	0	
„ Rent	461	3	4		„ Rates, Cleaning, and Insurance	505	10	8	
„ Bank Withdrawals	26114	10	2		„ Opening Expenses	204	9	5	
					„ Removal Charges	61	15	6	
					„ Sewering and other expenses	71	11	5	
					„ Subscriptions refunded	5	12	0	
					„ "Holyoake Memorial" Grave	237	5	0	
					„ Expenses on Property (old)	371	13	8	
					„ Bank Deposits	27567	19	2	
	£525	05	15	8		£525	05	15	8

BANK ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Deposits	27567	19	2	By Withdrawals	26114	10	2
„ Bank Dividend	£242	16	6	„ Interest (overdraft)	£69	7	2
„ Trade Dividend	209	0	0	„ Commission and			
„ Interest	1214	4	9	„ Cheques	13	12	6
	1666	1	3	„ Stamping Agreements	5	0	0
					87	19	8
				„ Balance	3131	10	7
	£29334	0	5		£29334	0	5

PROPERTY REVENUE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Expenses	189	10	3	By Rents	461	3	4
„ Balance (Income and Expenditure Account)	271	13	1				
	£461	3	4		£461	3	4

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Cost of Holyoake Grave	237	5	0	By Transfer (Owen Memorial Fund)	90	13	8
„ Expenses of Site	182	3	0	„ Property Revenue Account	271	13	1
„ Opening, Removal, and other expenses	872	15	0	„ Expenses repaid	32	0	0
„ Bank Charges	87	19	8	„ Bank Dividend and Interest	1766	1	3
„ Balance	780	5	4				
	£2160	8	0		£2160	8	0

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.			£	s.	d.	ASSETS.			£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions	258	1	16	6		By Land and Buildings	22362	7	10		
„ Balance Income over Expenditure	780	5	4			„ Furniture and Fittings	1088	3	5		
						„ Balance in Bank	3131	10	7		

HUGHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Dr.

FUND ACCOUNT.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Scholarship Fund	2000	0	0	By Investment in Co-operative Wholesale Society	1350	0	0
				" " Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society ..	640	0	0
	£2000	0	0		£2000	0	0

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1916.				1916.			
To Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 1st January, 1916 ..	122	17	9	By Cash in hands Co-operative Union, 31st December, 1916 ..	203	3	0
" Interest received during the year :—							
English Wholesale Society	£54	5	0				
Scottish Wholesale Society	26	0	3				
	80	5	3				
	£203	3	0		£203	3	0

NEALE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Dr.

FUND ACCOUNT.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Scholarship Fund	2000	0	0	By Investment in Co-operative Wholesale Society	1300	0	0
				" " Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society	700	0	0
	£2000	0	0		£2000	0	0

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1916.				1916.			
To Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 1st January, 1916.....	81	10	3	By Cash paid to Scholar during the year	66	13	4
" Interest received during the year:—				" Cash in hands of Co-operative Union, 31st December, 1916..	95	3	3
English Wholesale Society	£51	17	2				
Scottish Wholesale Society	28	9	2				
	80	6	4				
	£161	16	7		£161	16	7

Statement of Receipts and
Expenditure of Lancaster
Congress, 1916.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of exclusive of Central Board

RECEIPTS.

To DONATIONS:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
English Co-operative Wholesale Society	150	0	0			
Lancaster Co-operative Society	350	0	0			
				500	0	0
„ Advertisements in Handbook				62	15	0
„ Bank Interest	£5	7	3			
„ „ Dividend	2	14	9			
					8	2
„ Paid by the Co-operative Union Limited				642	1	10

I have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Lancaster Congress Fund for the year 1916, and compared all counterfoils of acknowledgments for cash received and vouchers for all payments made, and hereby certify the above Statement of Accounts as correct.

T. Wood,
Public Auditor.

£1212 18 10

the Co-operative Congress, Lancaster, 1916, Fees and Expenses.

EXPENDITURE.

By LODGINGS AND LUNCHEONS COMMITTEE:—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Luncheons—Delegates		416	15	6			
Luncheon—Central Board		49	0	7			
Advertising		2	14	0			
Printing		10	6	9			
Postages		3	10	0			
Hire of Rooms		14	14	0			
					497	0	10
„ PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:—							
Travelling and Expenses		3	13	6			
Postage		1	0	0			
Hire of Piano and Organ		5	15	6			
Musicians, Artists, &c.		30	0	0			
Printing		2	17	9			
Excursion, Entrance Fees, &c.—Lancaster Castle		12	2	5			
					55	9	2
„ EXHIBITION COMMITTEE:—							
Preparing Plans, &c., for Proposed Exhibition					25	0	0
„ CONGRESS GUIDE AND HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:—							
Souvenir—Printing		157	18	4			
Photographs, Blocks, and Reproduction Fees		46	14	2			
Guidebook—Printing		25	0	0			
Editor and Writing Articles		53	15	0			
					283	7	6
„ FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:—							
Hire of Congress Hall		43	3	0			
Decorating Hall and Street Sign		11	10	0			
Fitting up Inquiry Office		6	10	0			
Billposting		7	10	0			
Advertising		7	9	0			
Doorkeepers and Caretakers		16	7	6			
Printing		13	8	0			
Delegates' Congress Reception Committee Badges		10	10	6			
Postages, Stationery, Typing, &c.		2	17	4			
					119	5	4
„ Sundry Expenses							
Advertising					6	6	3
Binding, &c., Presentation Volumes					12	10	0
General Printing					6	15	0
Bank Charges—Commission					35	0	0
Cheques		£1	2	5			
Interest		0	8	4			
					0	14	0
Honorariums: Secretaries					2	4	9
Rebate: Lancaster Society					20	0	0
					150	0	0

£1212 18 10

All Co-operative Societies should join the
CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD.

The Union is an Association of Co-operative Societies for the defence of Co-operative principles, and to give advice to Societies in need of same, either in connection with Legal Business or Educational Work.

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TUDOR ST., LONDON. E.C.

A. W. TYLER, MANAGER.

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Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.



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Paper and Twine Warehouse:—Corporation Street, Manchester.
Drapery Warehouses:—Balloon Street and Dantzic Street, Manchester.
Woollens and Ready-made Clothing Warehouse:—Dantzic Street, Manchester.
Boot and Shoe Warehouse:—Balloon Street, Manchester.
Saddlery Warehouse:—Thorniley Brow (Dantzic Street), Manchester.
Furniture Warehouse:—Corporation Street, Manchester.
Carpet and Floorcloth Warehouse:—Corporation Street, Manchester.
Coal Department:—Balloon Street, Manchester.

Branches:—West Blandford Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Leman Street, London, E.

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*Hide and Skin Depôts:—*Newcastle, Manchester, Leeds, and Beeston.

*Fellmongering, &c.:—*Pontefract.

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THE PRESENT POSITION

Shareholders (1,189 Societies), nearly $2\frac{3}{4}$ Millions.

Capital, - - over $13\frac{1}{4}$ Millions. [£]

Reserve Funds, over $2\frac{1}{4}$ Millions.

Land, Buildings, &c., over $6\frac{1}{4}$ Millions.

Depreciation, - over $3\frac{3}{4}$ Millions.

Sales for Year, over 52 Millions.

Total Sales, - over 630 Millions.

Total Surplus, - - 12 Millions.

Bank Turnover, over $277\frac{1}{4}$ Millions. *

Direct Imports, over $7\frac{3}{4}$ Millions. *

Own Manufactures, over $16\frac{1}{4}$ Millions. *

* For Year.

OF THE

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY.

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UNDERTAKES

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(ESTABLISHED 1868.)



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Annual Sales, over 16½ Millions.

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:: Registered Co-operative Societies supplied. ::

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ALSO OWNS

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AND has joint buying arrangements with the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, of England, in many important Continental Centres; in the United States and Canada; and is joint owner with the Co-operative Wholesale Society of Tea Estates in Ceylon.



NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES - 10,321.
(WITH THE COLOURS, 1,754.)



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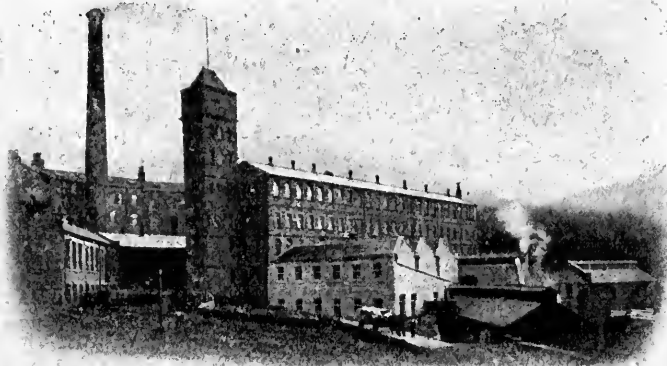
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For Ladies', Girls', and Boys' Smart, Up-to-date
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Progress of Trade.

::

::

In periods of Five Years.

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1880	£35,113
1885	£82,915
1890	£165,148
1895	£273,543

SALES.

1900	£373,737
1905	£446,234
1910	£555,043
1915	£796,955
1916	one year	..	£211,020

CONTRACTORS TO H.M. GOVERNMENT.

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All that is Best and Daintiest in Up-to-date Footwear



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—3-2—

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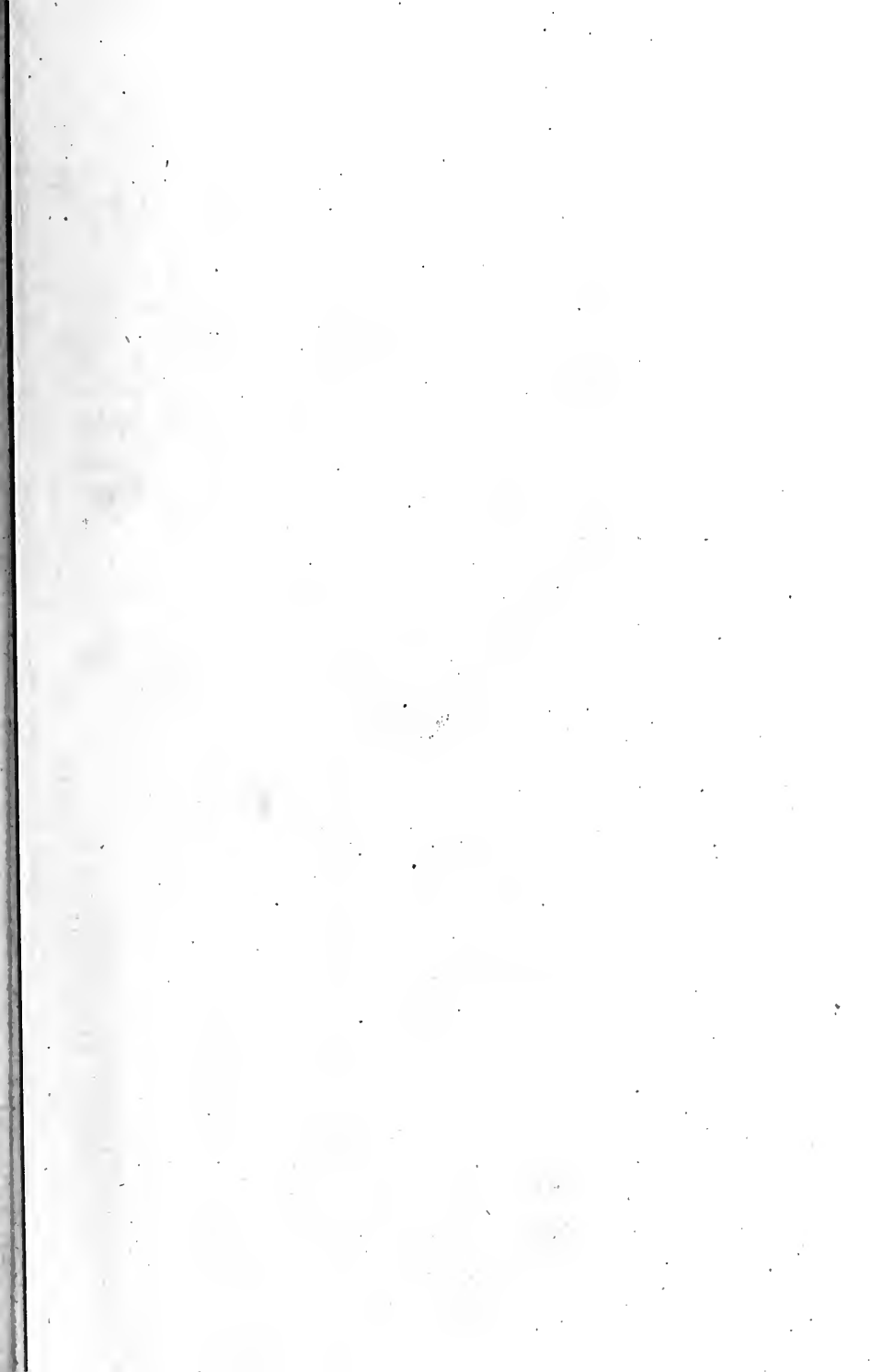
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